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SUPPLEMENT

Childcare strategy is top priority

Labour gives women new political voice

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

HARRIET HARMAN yesterday set out her plans to give women a more powerful voice in the corridors of power.

She is to establish special cabinet and civil service organisations to concentrate on women's issues, and promises to promote policies that will help women not only to get jobs but also to reach the top.

Her objective was to "create a bond of trust between women and government and to ensure that the Government delivers its promises", she said. But the initiative was dismissed as a gimmick by members of the last Conservative Government, who said that she was doing no more than it had done.

Ms Harman, who is both Social Security Secretary and Minister for Women, is to chair a new cabinet sub-committee for women, co-ordinating the work of all departments, and she will also see all economic and social policy papers submitted to other sub-committees to assess their impact on women.

At the same time, a women's unit is to be set up to liaise with civil servants. That will be run by Pauline Barrett, who is being recalled from the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

The new cabinet group will include most of Labour's senior women including Ms Harman, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Clare Short, Overseas Development Secretary, Tessa Jowell, Health Minister, Glenda Jackson, Transport Minister, Angela Eagle, Environment Minister,



"You've already got a microwave and a dishwasher, so whatever it is, we don't need it"

and Helen Liddle, the Treasury Minister. All are married with children apart from Ms Mowlem who is married without children and Ms Eagle, who is single. They will be joined by at least two men — probably the Welsh Minister Peter Hain, and the Scottish Minister Henry McLeish. Both have families, but they are thought to have been included simply because there are no women in their departments.

Women felt disconnected from government, Ms Harman said. "New Labour is determined to have a new dialogue with women in the country — women from all walks of life and not just those on the inside track — and show that we are a government for women and men."

One of Ms Harman's first

actions is likely to be an announcement this week on the splitting of pensions on divorce — which in most cases will benefit the wife. And another top priority will be to work out a national childcare strategy so that women can take up employment opportunities.

Ms Harman is expected to encourage both the Civil Service and private firms to promote female workers whenever possible — although she has not decided whether to impose artificial mechanisms such as quotas. And firms will be urged to take on more part-time workers, provide creches and be more flexible about time off. Tax incentives have not been ruled out, although they are unlikely to feature in next month's Budget.

But Cheryl Gillan, who had responsibility for women's issues in John Major's Government, claimed that there was nothing new in Ms Harman's proposals. She said the Cabinet sub-committee was identical to that set up under the Tories and that under John Major officials in every Whitehall department had responsibility for women's issues.

Ann Widdecombe, the former Home Office Minister, said: "Miss Harman seems to be unaware we also had a Cabinet sub-committee which examined all legislation for its impact on women and discussed women's issues at regular intervals. All she appears to have done is to put a couple more spokes in the wheel. I am not sure it will make the chariot go any faster."



Karen Callenbach, a City trader who described yesterday how she wrestled with a man with a knife who attacked her outside her Kensington flat. "My immediate reaction was to fight," she told the Old Bailey. Court report, page 3

'Urban gorillas' are target of crackdown on speeding drivers

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

A BLITZ on speeding is being planned to curb the death toll caused by motorists driving too fast. Heavier fines, stricter enforcement of limits and better use of cameras are among moves being examined. Existing speed limits will also be reviewed.

The campaign will focus on a widespread defiance of the 30mph restriction in built-up areas to try to end the macho culture of the "urban gorilla".

The number of road deaths is falling, mainly because of less drink-driving, but the proportion of fatalities caused by speeding has risen: now there are twice as many speeding as drink-driving victims. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, yesterday signalled government plans to reduce the 1,200 deaths and 100,000 serious injuries caused each year by speeding motorists.

Ministers aim to make speeding as socially unacceptable as drink-driving has become, thanks to decades of rigid law enforcement and high-profile publicity. A £3.5million advertising campaign, being launched in September, will underline the dangers to children in urban areas, especially near schools where some local authorities have introduced 20mph limits.

The increasing number of parents taking part in "school runs" has raised concern that speeding has become an endemic part of life, especially among the middle classes. Government figures show driving at 40mph in a 30mph area is considered less serious than not having a television licence. However, official figures also show that while five out of ten pedestrians would die if hit by a vehicle travelling at 30mph, the number is nine out of ten at 40mph.

Ministers are understood to be concerned that inconsistent policing has encouraged drivers in some areas to believe they will not be caught. However, the Government faces pressure from police to be allowed to add an administrative levy to fines to cover the costs of targeting speeding motorists. Part of that money is needed to service speed cameras that often run out of film.

Police say that while cameras have made drivers more conscious of speed on motorways, major trunk roads and country lanes, fast driving has become more prevalent in built-up areas. The "urban gorilla" nicknamed by police, is described as a driver, most commonly male, with an "ape-like inability to understand that speed kills, especially children."

Baroness Hayman, the Road Safety Minister, meets the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents next week to discuss improvements the society has sought. David Rogers, the society's road safety advisor, said: "There is a perception that it is fine to drive at 85mph on a motorway. We need to make it known that people will be stopped and prosecuted."

The Government is resisting pressure to introduce draconian measures such as a national reduction in the speed limit, but is expected to urge police forces and highway authorities to reassess local limits to ensure they are realistic. "A limit that is perceived by motorists as being ludicrously low is less effective than one that is realistic," said a government spokesman.

"Equally there are other areas where an old speed limit is too high and might not have taken into account changing circumstances."

Dr Strang told MPs yesterday that he had no intention of bowing to pressure to raise the top motorway limit of 70mph.

Kohl yields to Bundesbank

Chancellor Helmut Kohl yielded to the Bundesbank and abandoned his plan to embellish Germany's 1997 budget by revaluing its gold. Meanwhile Sweden said it would not embrace the euro at its launch in 1999 and John Major urged Tony Blair to tell the EU to delay monetary union. Pages 14, 15, 21

Ulster terrorist groups banned

The Loyalist Volunteer Force and the republican Continuity Army Council, breakaway terrorist groups, were outlawed in response to the latest surge in Northern Ireland violence. Anyone convicted of membership of the 12 proscribed organisations faces a six-year jail sentence. Page 2

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Union strike threat by £600-a-week builders

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PRESTIGE building projects, thought to include London's Jubilee Line extension, could be hit by strikes if building union leaders carry out the first threatened national stoppage for 25 years.

The threat came yesterday after the unions rejected a three-year pay deal offering total rises of 32 per cent. Unions refused to say which projects might be affected, but they are understood to include the Jubilee Line, the Millennium project at Greenwich, the £100 million renewal of the Royal Opera House and the controversial Newbury bypass.

Strike action is likely to be concentrated in London and the South East because of skill shortages. Steel fixers are now paid up to £600 a week and bricklayers up to £400.

Allan Black, national con-

struction secretary of the GMB general union, said yesterday: "We are sleepwalking towards industrial action." The last national strike in the building industry was in 1973. Pay rates in the national agreement covering construction had become all but detached from real pay levels in the industry, and employers sought to reach a comprehensive agreement more closely in line with actual pay and conditions on sites.

The move coincided with a new push by the Inland Revenue in the construction industry. As a result, many building workers are moving from bogus self-employment back into full-time work, taxed at normal rates, which for some has meant a 23 per cent pay cut as they moved back into the tax net.

Building employers origi-

nally offered a four-year deal, which with consolidation of bonus payments would have given overall rises, by the end, of 45 per cent.

But the unions rejected this, and employers then came forward with a complex package which would have raised the current hourly craft rate in stages from £4.58 to £6.05. The employers also want an agreement to opt-out from the provisions of the European working time directive.

Malcolm Fordy, for the employers, said: "The proposals put forward were a wide-ranging, positive and constructive response to the unions."

No further meetings have been arranged. The industry's present agreement, including pay rates dating back to May 1996, will continue in force until there is a new deal.

Labour MPs want fox-hunting vote

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

LABOUR's new MPs flexed their muscles for the first time yesterday by tabling a demand for an immediate ban on fox-hunting.

Some 120 MPs, many of them newly-elected, added to the pressure on the Government to allow time for a vote on the issue, something that it is reluctant to grant so early in the Parliament when it is fully occupied with a heavy legislative load. They signed a Commons motion saying that the case against hunting with hounds "has been proven on scientific, ecological and moral grounds".

There could be no justification for continuing the sport and the motion "therefore calls for the immediate outlawing of hunting wild animals with hounds."

The move could embarrass the Government. Although a Bill banning hunting would

easily get through the Commons there could be a prolonged confrontation in the Lords, which ministers want to avoid at this stage. They do not regard banning hunting as a priority and some senior figures in the Labour leadership actively oppose it.

Among the signatories of the motion is Michael Foster, MP for Worcester, who came top in the backbenchers' ballot benches to introduce their own Private Member's Bill. He has still not decided whether to choose such a controversial issue and the whips have tried to dissuade him from doing so.

Labour has promised a free vote on such a Bill and Ministers admit privately that it would be hard to resist the clamour for parliamentary time to consider fox-hunting in view of the likely level of support for a ban.

Obsessive training knocks wind out of Gale Force

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

THE British super-featherweight boxing champion P.J. Gallagher, known as "Gale Force", turned into a gentle breeze when he overdid his training.

So addicted did he become to exercise that he even got up at dead of night to go running, apparently while still in his sleep. Several times his girlfriend Natasha found him slipping

out of bed at night and getting into his tracksuit to go running. She had to lock him in.

Far from making him stronger and fitter, the training made him weak. Gallagher's condition became known only last February when, after three hard fights, he was beaten by Bamana Dibateza of Zaïre, a journeyman boxer, who ended his unbeaten run of 16 contests.

"He kept all this quiet and told us

about it after that shock loss," Frank Maloney, his trainer, said. "It wasn't a gale force in the ring that night. I told him, 'If you can't beat this guy, you haven't got a future. P.J.' Then he tells us about this mystery illness."

Tests showed that his levels of the male sex hormone testosterone had dropped well below normal. Dr David Walsh, the British Boxing Board of Control sports medicine expert, put it down to over-exertion. Gallagher may

have been suffering from "jogger's high". Some sports doctors believe that this can be caused by the body producing natural painkillers, or endorphins, which are chemically similar to morphine. People become addicted to the sensation they produce and work harder to achieve it.

"I should have listened to my trainer," admits Gallagher. "I became a trainaholic." After a three-month lay-off, his testosterone is back to normal.

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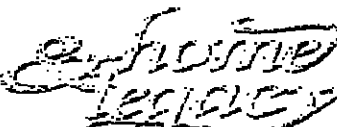
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Morbid fascination of ghost dances with wolves

COUNT DRACULA, hearing wolves howl, remarked: "Listen to the creatures of the night! What music they make!" To witness Donald Dewar and Michael Howard — dark and unsmiling — circling each other with bared teeth, and duelling with stealth and eloquence, was to experience in all its mystery the music of the creatures of the night.

Is there a subliminal message behind the pronunciation Miss Boothroyd has adopted for the Scottish Secretary's name? Yesterday she called him "Mr Dour". Truly there is nobody more dour on the Labour Front Bench. Tall, stooped, hand-wringing, gloomy of countenance and mordant of wit, Donald Dewar contrives a blend of anxiety and solemnity, like a funeral director on the verge of bankruptcy.

In his sombre way he also possesses an acid brilliance as a Commons speaker. Yesterday the Scottish Secretary offered a display of his mastery at the Dispatch box, in combat with the Tory leadership contender, Michael Howard. There is, as has been observed, something of the night about Mr Howard.

This, then, was a minuet of ghoul. Dewar's referendum on devolution depend on the "guillotine" motion he moved. Howard's prospects depend on his performance in the days left before his party's leadership contest: he was auditioning for Leader of the Opposition. Donald Dewar's spoken English is a pleasure to encounter and must be a joy for Hansard writers to take down. Without notes he delivers the sort of polished constructions that would be other people's third drafts. To write, in measured prose, "there has been an organised attempt — perfectly legitimate undertaken but equally legitimate met — to obstruct..." might not be exceptional. But to talk like that off the cuff, as Dewar

takes in debate that always — even in moments of tension and anger — hints at the game.

Mr Howard's speech was immaculate in everything but its ability to convince us that he would not, himself, try the same tricks as those of which he was accusing Labour. Sir Norman Fowler (C, Sutton Coldfield), a former Cabinet Minister and party chairman who spoke afterwards, was less smooth: yet somehow you believed him.

Polish in politics can be scary; a rough edge can reassure. Angela Eagle, a new junior environment minister making her debut at the dispatch box yesterday, probably won more friends with one stumble than with a stream of Civil Service

jargon. She was answering a question about biodiversity. Losing her notes, she stammered: "It relates to... er..."

"Birds?" shouted a Tory wag. "No, no, not birds!" said Ms Eagle, flustered. "Er... sea horses!"

Later came a maiden speech from the MP for Conwy, a scarlet-clad Ben Williams. The beauty of Conwy invited "superlatives I may not have mastered in the English language, rather than my native Welsh". Mrs Williams, who made Llandudno sound like Eden, was more eloquent than she pretended.

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Mowlam outlaws terror groups as Ulster talks resume

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO breakaway terrorist groups that have launched sectarian attacks in Northern Ireland were outlawed last night by the Government as it stepped up its response to the upsurge in violence.

The Loyalist Volunteer Force and the republican Continuity Army Council were added to the list of ten proscribed terrorist organisations by Mr Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. Her decision means that anyone convicted of membership of one of the organisations could face a six-year jail sentence.

The crackdown on the terrorists came as the multiparty talks at Stormont resumed after a two-month break for the general and local elections. The opening session at the Stormont Castle Buildings heard strong condemnations of the recent wave of sectarian attacks, some of which were launched by the two newly proscribed groups.

The LVF was blamed for last month's sectarian murder of Sean Brown, a respected Catholic training officer from Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, and for planting a bomb in Dundalk, Co Louth, in the Irish Republic last month. The group was formed this year by associates of Billy Wright, the

Roisin McAliskey, the IRA suspect, has postnatal depression and is to be transferred to a specialist hospital unit. A statement from the Whittington Hospital in north London and Ms McAliskey's family said she and her baby, Loimhir, would remain at the unit until she was medically fit to be discharged, and at that time the court would reconsider the case. Mr Justice Butterfield varied the terms of Ms McAliskey's bail at a private hearing in the High Court yesterday. She is fighting extradition to Germany, where she is wanted in connection with an IRA bomb attack on a British army base last summer.

hardliner expelled by the Ulster Volunteer Force last year after he voiced opposition to the loyalist ceasefire. Wright was jailed for eight years in March for threatening to kill a woman.

Although the CAC has been less active in recent months, its members have shown a lethal capability. Last July, at the height of the disturbances during the marching season, the CAC devastated the

Killyhevlin Hotel in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, with a massive bomb. The group calls itself the Continuity Army Council because its members believe they are the true representatives of the original IRA. The CAC is the terrorist wing of Republican Sinn Féin, which split from Sinn Féin in 1986.

The decision to ban the LVF and the CAC came after lengthy deliberations between the Northern Ireland Office and the security forces. Dr Mowlam took her time because officials warned her that banning the groups could add to their status among hardliners.

Dr Mowlam pressed ahead with the search for peace yesterday by insisting that the Stormont talks must move on to substantive political negotiations within weeks. In a tough address to the first session, she said a formula must be found to resolve the divisive issue of disarming terrorists, which has stalled the talks since they opened last June.

Dr Mowlam said: "If the talks do not move on to the substantive issues in the near future they will lose credibility and defer — and perhaps lose — the best opportunity for a

generation of securing a widely acceptable political accommodation."

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, echoed her remarks, saying the talks were reaching a defining moment. He described the first year of discussions as a "deeply disillusioning spectacle for the public".

The British and Irish governments are exasperated that the talks have made so little

progress since they opened 51 weeks ago. It is expected that officials will draw up a paper to try to resolve the arms issue so that talks can move on to wider negotiations on areas such as relations between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The strong stance by Dr Mowlam and Mr Spring was welcomed by John Hume, leader of the SDLP, who wants the arms issue to be

dealt with in parallel with discussions on substantive issues. However Unionists insist that the IRA must begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Féin can join full talks. Sinn Féin, which staged a publicity stunt outside the talks yesterday, will be excluded until the IRA declares an unequivocal ceasefire.

Before addressing the talks Dr Mowlam clashed with the chairman of the Police Federa-

tion in Northern Ireland over reforms to the RUC. Les Rodgers told Dr Mowlam that "you had hardly time to warn your new seat at Stormont Castle" when she said that reform was a priority. Mr Rodgers said the federation accepted that the police should adjust to changing times but he said critics of the RUC wanted to abolish the force.

Simon Jenkins, page 20



Gerry Adams and Pat Doherty of Sinn Féin outside Stormont after the start of multiparty talks yesterday

Woodhead gets full backing of No 10

Tony Blair gave Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, a public vote of confidence yesterday, inviting him to Downing Street to assure him that he had the Government's full backing in raising school standards.

Their hour-long meeting, attended also by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, was Mr Blair's warning to teacher unions that he would override their opposition to Mr Woodhead.

Last week the National Association of Head Teachers' conference passed a vote of no confidence in the chief inspector.

Rover scraps ad

The Rover car company has withdrawn a television advertisement featuring a blindfolded hostage being rescued after a diplomatic exchange in a barren landscape. Rover said it and the Independent Television Commission had received complaints about the appropriateness of the advertisement at a time of hostage tension involving Britons. Rover apologised for any offence it had caused.

Kids go to No 10

Cherie Blair is to mark Budget day by opening up the garden of 10 Downing Street to youngsters from the Kids' Club Network, which organises after-school activities for the children of working parents. The Prime Minister's wife has also taken the lead in ensuring that Downing Street's block of tickets for the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony will go to disabled young people.

Harrier jet escape

An RAF pilot ejected to safety before the Harrier jet he was flying crashed in the Scottish borders. The jet came down in woods five miles southeast of Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway. The pilot, who was on a routine training flight, was able to walk to a nearby farmhouse. Another Harrier pilot ejected to safety two weeks ago when his plane crashed near RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire.

Nuclear des res

A fire authority is to reap an unexpected peace dividend as a result of the ending of the Cold War by selling a bunker which was originally designated a nuclear war control centre. West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority hope that the concrete building, which has no natural light or heat, will fetch at least £100,000 because of its location in popular Sutton Coldfield.

Jurassic tape find

A pirate master tape of the Steven Spielberg film *Jurassic Park: The Lost World*, worth an estimated £1 million on the black market, has been seized by customs officers. Two Scotsmen were intercepted at Glasgow Airport carrying the tape, along with pirate copies of five other American films. The film is not due for general release in Britain until July 18.

Airship lifts off

The RAC airship, *Spirit of Mobility*, which will advertise the motoring organisation's presence above British skies this summer, set off on its maiden voyage over Bristol. It will appear over major events, including the Henley Royal Regatta and the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, and will be used to spot traffic blackspots and relay pictures to the ground.

Exam abandoned

An exam being taken by 200 students was halted after 15 minutes yesterday because the answers were written on the back of test papers. It would have provided 60 per cent of marks for a first-year information technology course at the London School of Economics, but course work or an assignment to be completed away from the college will now be marked.

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Lottery chiefs may resign over order on bonuses

By OLIVER AUGUST AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE directors of Camelot may resign after being ordered to hand back their bonuses by the Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, it was claimed yesterday.

Jeremy Marshall, a Camelot board member, said his fellow directors could leave for better-paid jobs elsewhere. Mr Marshall, who is also chief executive of De La Rue, the company that prints the National Lottery tickets, added: "Tim Holley [the Camelot chief executive] only earned £75,000 more than expected under the original business plan, while the Treasury got £400 million more. There is every chance he will leave."

Mr Holley "would be very difficult to replace," said Mr Marshall, who is an unpaid Camelot non-executive director but earned £570,000 at De La Rue last year.

Mr Marshall spoke as Mr Holley and three other directors were taking legal advice

over whether to surrender their pay bonuses to charity. Camelot appeared defiant, dismissing Mr Smith's claim that it was destroying public confidence in the lottery and declaring it had received only three complaints from the public about pay.

The directors, who received pay increases of up to 90 per cent, were yesterday consulting a team of seven in-house experts at Camelot headed by the corporate services director Gill Switalasi over whether to defy the ultimatum to hand over the cash — about £1 million — by Friday. Insiders said the men were not minded to comply because they were abiding by the terms of their contracts.

Two of the directors, Peter Murphy, the Camelot finance director, and David Rigg, the communications director, are former De La Rue employees. Mr Marshall said: "Both are extremely good at their jobs.

They could demand at least those sort of salaries outside Camelot. The fear is that we will lose them."

De La Rue holds a 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot and received £10 million in profit from the lottery operator last year, it reported yesterday. De La Rue, a world leader in security and bank note printing, is responsible for Camelot's ticket paper and printing.

Another Camelot shareholder also stepped into the row yesterday. Rascal, the electronics specialist which owns 22.5 per cent of Camelot, said the dispute was "embarrassing".

Sir Ernest Harrison, the 71-year-old company chairman, threatened Rascal could withdraw from Camelot if Labour made it into a "non-profit making organisation". De La Rue refused to rule out a similar move.

Business, pages 26-33

Estate agents given warning as property market recovers

By EMMA WILKINS

ESTATE agents who use sharp practices to exploit clients in the current buoyant property market were threatened yesterday with lifetime bans.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said he would not hesitate to use his powers to issue prohibition orders against unscrupulous agents. The warning comes as the housing market continues to recover with prices on average 10 per cent higher across Britain than a year ago. The recovery in London has been particularly dramatic with some prime areas seeing price increases of up to 14.5 per cent in three months.

As parts of the capital experience chronic shortages of available properties, some agents have been exploiting desperate buyers, according to the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Bridgeman said cases

had been reported recently of estate agents taking fees from buyers to "ring-fence" particular properties and not pass other offers to the vendor. That amounted to making a secret profit, he said.

Under the Estate Agents Act, the OFT director-general has the power to ban agents from practising and can remove their consumer credit licences if they engage in improper, unfair, deceitful or oppressive practices. "I will not hesitate to use these powers where I find they have led to consumer detriment," Mr Bridgeman said.

Since 1979, when the Estate Agents Act was passed, 237 estate agents have been banned from practising. In 1995, nine estate agents received lifetime bans compared with 17 at the height of the property boom in 1989. House prices across Britain

rose by 1.2 per cent in May and were now 10 per cent higher than a year ago, according to Nationwide Building Society. In some parts of London prices have risen by 50 per cent over the past 18 months, fuelled by big City bonuses and investment from the Far East.

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Speculation over accommodation '100% wrong'

American curator pulls out of Ashmolean job

BY TUNIKU VARADARAJAN AND DALYA ALBERGE

A LEADING American curator has turned down the directorship of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford five months after formally accepting the post.

The city and the art world were yesterday rife with speculation as to why Dr George Goldner had changed his mind so suddenly. It was suggested that he had been dismayed to discover that accommodation was not included in the £42,000-a-year post. However, Dr Goldner said that was "100 per cent wrong".

"The decision to turn the Oxford job down, and to remain in New York, had absolutely nothing to do with flats and homes and apartments," he said. Finding a suitable home had proved difficult, but no more so than locating one in London or New York or any other desirable city.

The actual reason, he explained, was that he and his wife realised how much he was enjoying New York and his job as senior curator at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. "We both love New York and we want to spend the rest of our careers here. At the end of the day we realised our hearts were not really in it. We never intended this decision to be a slight against Oxford. We just want to stay here in New York."

Dr Goldner, 54, added: "Naturally, I wish I had taken things more fully into account in November, when I said yes to Oxford. I'm sorry if I've caused the Ashmolean any dislocation, but they know that I accepted in good faith. Now I realise it was a mistake. Isn't it better to say so clearly than to go and live in a place where you'd rather not be?"

It was also suggested that



George Goldner, left, who says he will not now be succeeding Christopher White at the Oxford museum



Only a handful met the requirements of him and his wife, who until last year lived in a Park Avenue apartment formerly owned by Diana Vreeland, the famed editor of Vogue.

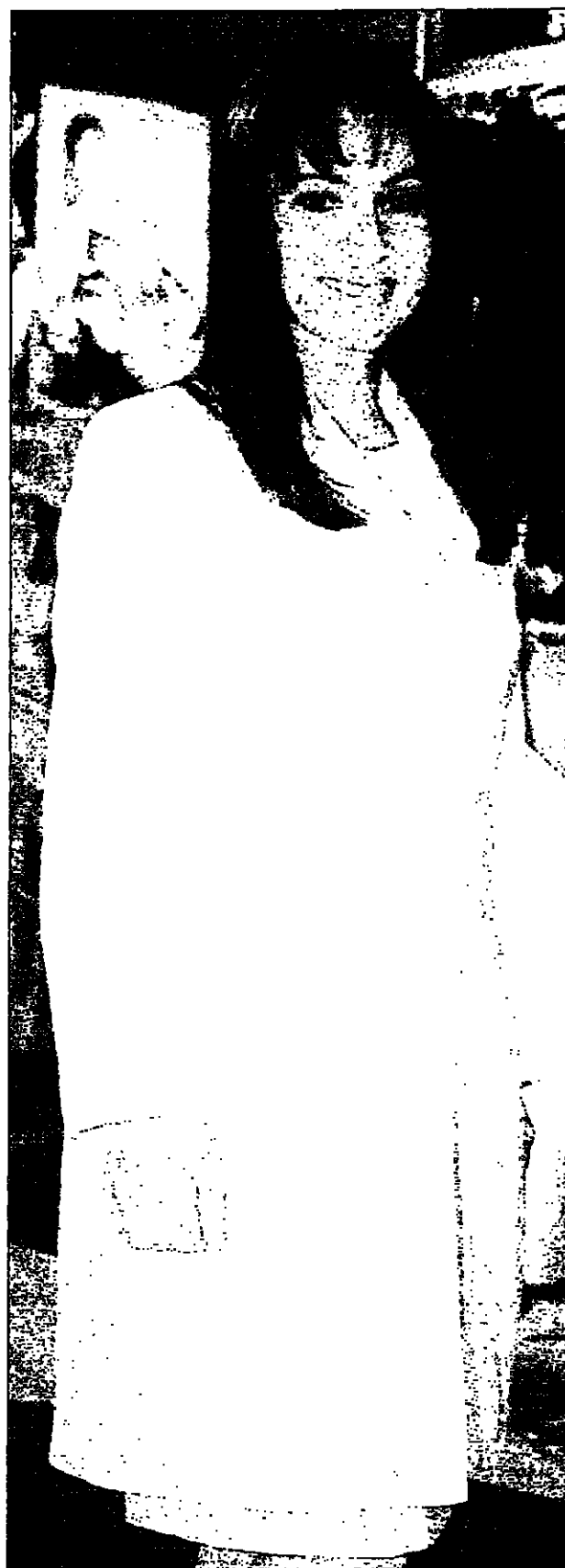
Dr Goldner was appointed last autumn in a blaze of publicity as the man to take over from Professor Christopher White, who is retiring after 12 years. He would have been responsible for works by such masters as Holbein, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, and Picasso housed in the 17th century museum.

Oxford University, which owns the Ashmolean, said that Dr Goldner had cited "personal reasons" for pulling out. Jill Sanders, spokeswoman for the university, said: "We are obviously disappointed but we have to respect his decision. It's not an embarrassing situation. We felt he was the best man for the job but these things happen and it must be for a very good reason. We are now taking steps to consider who to appoint in his place."

Observers in New York's byzantine art world, however, have their own interpretations. A senior figure said yesterday that he was "not in the least surprised" by Dr Goldner's decision. He asserted: "Look, Goldner acquires. He buys paintings and drawings. He lives for that. What would he have acquired at the Ashmolean? Nothing, except perhaps some Oxford dust. Reaching out to students is not really his thing. It's quite curious that he should even have considered the Ashmolean in the first place."

Another observer suggested that Dr Goldner lost interest in the Ashmolean last month when it was rumoured that John Walsh, currently Director of the J. Paul Getty Museum in California, would be moving to the Frick Museum in New York. Dr Goldner, who was at the Getty before he moved to the Met in 1993 (leaving his heart behind, many believe), is known to be keen to take on the glamorous role of director at his curatorial "alma mater".

Dr Goldner's Oxford salary — pegged to the university's fixed professional scale — is appreciably less than the amount he is thought to be paid by the Met. Although the New York museum declined to disclose figures, experts suggest that he is likely to be getting somewhere between \$150,000 and \$200,000 a year (£90,000-£120,000). He was, after all, lured over from the Getty Museum, which is a lavish paymaster.



Jacqueline Gold, the sex shop millionaire, demanded harsher penalties against stalkers

Phone stalker plagued Ann Summers chief

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE millionaire managing director of the Ann Summers sex shop empire demanded harsher penalties for telephone stalkers yesterday after an obsessed young man who waged a three-month campaign against her walked free from court.

Jacqueline Gold received dozens of calls on her office and mobile phones from Dean Bentley, 21, who rang from a village call box, falsely claiming that Ms Gold's boyfriend had paid his fictitious, drug-dealing brother to "get her".

Bentley, from Highbury, Lincolnshire, even asked a friend to fake a knife attack on the 35-year-old businesswoman so he could come to the rescue "like a knight in shining armour". Lincoln Magistrates' Court was told.

Ms Gold at first dismissed him as a crank caller but became frightened after Bentley's mother Owen, 64, called warning her to take the threat seriously. It later emerged that Bentley travelled 200 miles to stake out her home in Caterham, Surrey, after finding her address on the electoral register.

Sue Holden, for the prosecution, told the court: "This relates to what can only be described as a campaign of stalking by telephone."

Bentley, she said, first became obsessed in October last year after reading a newspaper article about Ms Gold.

Bentley, said by his solicitor to be "living in a dream world", admitted one charge of malicious communication by sending a threatening letter and four charges of improper use of a telephone by making menacing telephone calls. His mother admitted two charges of improper use of a telephone.

He was sentenced to two years' probation for the letter, with two years' probation and 100 hours' community service for the menacing calls. He was also ordered to pay £100

compensation to live at a bail hostel. Mrs Bentley was conditionally discharged and ordered to pay £100 compensation.

Ms Gold built Ann Summers into a company with an annual turnover of £40 million after taking it over from her father at the age of 20. She conceived the idea of saleswomen promoting lingerie parties in customers' houses. She was not in court to hear the verdicts but said in a statement: "Naturally I am relieved that the long ordeal is over, but I am very disappointed



Bentley: lived in fantasy world, court was told

ed that the sentence has seemingly ruled in favour of the defendants. After invading my life over three months they are all but forgiven by the courts, which I feel is very unjust."

She said she had written to several MPs and would campaign for stiffer legislation on stalking.

"I have been very fortunate because of my business profile in that I have had unwavering support from Scotland Yard. How many thousands of women and men over the years have suffered from this life-changing situation and do not feel safe enough to come forward?"

City trader tells how she drove off armed attacker

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

WHEN an intruder armed with a knife grabbed her around the throat as she arrived home from work, City trader Karen Callenbach's only thought was to stop him forcing her inside her flat.

She could see the knife in his hand as her assailant clamped his hand over her mouth and pushed his way in, a court was told yesterday.

But Miss Callenbach, who is 5ft 6in tall, kept her nerve. Forced into the hallway of her Kensington basement flat, she began to fight back. "My immediate reaction was to fight. I just couldn't believe someone was doing this," she told an Old Bailey jury.

First she gripped his hand from her mouth. Gripping the hand that held the knife, she edged her startled attacker back through the open front door and tumbled into the street. "I was looking him straight in the eye," she said.

Her retaliation stunned the intruder: fearful of further punishment, he turned and ran but was caught by a passing police officer.

Yesterday Miss Callenbach, 28, who works for the investment bank J.P. Morgan, calmly described the evening

last September as she walked from the Underground Station to her home. She heard footsteps behind her as she turned the keys in the front door. "I went to close the door, but did not do so in time," she said. The next moment Adrian Rajaratnam, 25, charged down the steps behind her and barged against the front door. "He managed to push it open and came straight through."

"As he did that he grabbed me around my face and put his hand over my mouth, pulling me backwards. In his other hand he had some sort of knife. Twice he whispered in my ear: 'Don't scream'."

She remembers sizing up her attacker and realising he was not much bigger than her. "I was struggling to get back outside the flat because I did not want him to close the door with me inside. As I fought I was able to struggle and as he tried to pull me his hand came away from my mouth. He suddenly seemed to loosen his hold and I managed to push the door open."

Rajaratnam, of Welling southeast London, denies assault, false imprisonment and possessing an offensive weapon. The trial continues.

Polar pair head for hot baths and beer

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE first British adventurers to reach the North Pole without back-up support were airlifted from the ice yesterday.

Dr Stephen Martin, 41, from Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and David Mitchell, 34, a climber and electrician from Walsdale, Cumbria, enjoyed their first hot bath, clean clothes and beer since setting off from the Siberian coast 93 days ago, on March 3.

They covered more than 1,200 miles in 92 days, carrying all their supplies and equipment over cracking ice in temperatures of minus 50C.

After their triumphant arrival at the North Pole on Monday, they were picked off the ice yesterday and flown five hours to Eureka, a scientific monitoring station 600 miles away. After washing, eating and sleeping they set off again to fly to Resolute Bay in Canada, where they were expected to arrive at midnight last night. They are due to fly home next week.

Laurence Howell, the expedition's communications and safety officer, said: "Both men are extremely happy to get as far as they did. They really did this for themselves, not for any record or fame."

Who can expect Europeans to speak with one voice?

BY ALAN HAMILTON

WITH the road towards a single European currency appearing to become ever rockier, what hope could there possibly be for a single European language?

The difficulties have not deterred Riccardo Nencini, an Italian socialist MEP, from suggesting to the European Commission that it looks into a common Euro-language as the ultimate expression of integration. Graciously, he does not suggest that we should all speak Italian.

Had the suggestion come from a Frenchman, it might not have been quite so gracious. Indeed, in a separate written question to the EC Pervenche Beres, a French socialist MEP, has complained that there is far too much use of English. The Italian submission

does not suggest which tongue should become the *lingua franca* of Europe. But Signor Nencini points out: "Given that specific language characteristics need to be safeguarded, including dialect forms, and given also that the process of European integration is forging ahead and that the adoption of a common language would help bring about a more cohesive Europe, does the Commission not believe that it should mount a campaign directed at the member states to achieve this goal?"

His question is wordy enough in English. It is unlikely it would be clearer in any of the Union's other native languages. Portuguese? That is only understood by the Portuguese and residents of Brazil. So impenetrable that the word for "taxi"

seems to take up most of the side of the car. Esperanto? Never really caught on.

The natural contender is English, but the proposal would undoubtedly receive a resounding *non* from Paris. Mme Beres says the Commission is already favouring English far too much. For example, she says, when companies tender for EU research projects, briefings by experts are usually only in English.

The Commission is still considering its response to both questions. Meanwhile it could usefully contemplate using the common language of the last European union.

Latin might struggle a little to cope with the technical terms of the microcircuit age, but then so do Portuguese, Finnish, Esperanto and the rest. And as for Mme Beres, the French for microcircuit is *microcircuit*.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
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Cancer research to benefit from sale of 47 volumes filled with 20,000 autographs

Legacy of man who signed up all the big names of our time

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LIONEL WOLFE spent more than 60 years hanging around stage doors and slipping past security men in dogged pursuit of famous people. He was undiscriminating in his prey, dedicating his life to chasing actresses, musicians and politicians with equal determination. The result of his obsession was some of the most extraordinary autograph books ever compiled.

Mr Wolfe trailed every famous name that came to London and insisted on meeting them face to face before they signed his book. He filled 47 volumes with 20,000 autographs during 64 tireless years, creating a comprehensive who's who of much of the century. Now they are being sold.

Mr Wolfe was killed, aged 80, when he was hit by a car near his north London home earlier this year — on the way to secure yet another signature. Mavis Davis, his sister-in-law, said: "He was on his way to one of the theatres to get an actress. I don't know which one. At least he was doing the thing that he loved most."

Signatures of personalities as diverse as Winston Churchill, the Windsors, Aldous Huxley, Igor Stravinsky, Margaret Thatcher, Cassius Clay, The

Beatles, Laurel and Hardy and Marilyn Monroe are there. The catalogue goes on with the Dalai Lama, Don Bradman, Eric Cantona and Chuck Berry, Benjamin Brinen, Edith Sitwell and the Kennedys.

The books, packed with Mr Wolfe's own sketches of the people he met, are to be sold, as he wished, to raise money to fight cancer, which killed his wife a decade ago. Phillips expects them to make more than £4,000. The signatures themselves are not valuable but, unusually for autograph books, they attracted the interest of auctioneers because of the extent of the collection.

"Normally autograph books are at the bottom of the pecking order," said Felix Pryor, the Phillips manuscript consultant. "They are terribly boring things for everyone except the person who has had fun collecting them. But this was done to such a mad, extravagant extent. He dedicated his life to these books and they are compulsive reading."

Mr Wolfe embarked on his life's work aged 16, when his father gave him his first autograph book. One of the early signatories was the great conductor Toscanini, who was waylaid



Lionel Wolfe: dedicated his life to autograph-hunting

leaving a concert. Mr Wolfe's grandfather had been a violinist and the teenager, showing the conductor his sketch of him, piped up: "Sir, my grandfather played under Wagner's baton 60 years ago, won't you sign this?" Toscanini took the youngster to his hotel, wrote down three bars of

Beethoven's 9th, signed it, and thus inspired the next six decades of Mr Wolfe's quest.

In 1952, Mr Wolfe, who worked for a grocer in Piccadilly, explained to the *Sunday Dispatch* that he insisted on meeting everyone who signed in person and just waited until they came to the capital. "Everybody famous comes to London eventually," he said. He would prowl the West End, staking out stage doors, lie in wait at BBC headquarters and patrol Lord's, Wimbledon, race tracks and prize fights. He had tea with Boris Karloff and once broke through a police cordon to get George Bernard Shaw's autograph.

He was not deterred by those who declined to co-operate. He finally succeeded with H.G. Wells on the tenth attempt when the writer's arm was in a sling. "How can I sign anything?" retorted Wells. "You can write with your left," chided a female companion and finally he consented, writing his signature backwards.

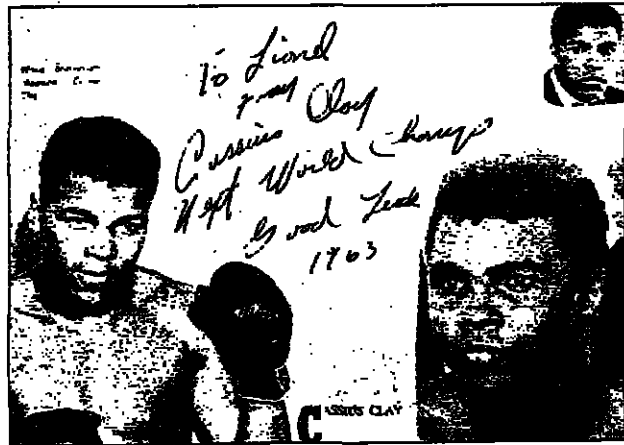
Miss Davis admits he was obsessed. "It was quite a lifetime's achievement. The unique thing is that he met every single person. He always waited for them to come to London. His two regrets were that he never met Mother Teresa or Elvis Presley."



Bardot was among those who gave her name



Churchill, above, and Cassius Clay, as he then was, both succumbed to Mr Wolfe's persistence



Value depends on rarity and context

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LIONEL WOLFE's books are to be sold as one lot but the most valuable modern signatures are probably those of The Beatles. Today the Fab Four still top the chart of most sought-after autographs.

A photograph of the band or one of their early albums signed by all four members would fetch upwards of £1,000 at auction. Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and fellow doomed stars such as Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison are in the same league.

However, most simple celebrity signatures are worth just a few pounds. Signed photographs of Cliff Richard or Joanna Lumley would fetch less than £100. The squiggles of pop and film stars and sports legends such as Mohammed Ali, formerly Cassius Clay, acquire cachet when they appear on guitars or leather jackets, and the competition among themed restaurants has inflated the cost of such memorabilia.

With historical signatures, even more than with celebrity autographs, the value is dependent on the document on which the name is signed. A

letter from Sir Winston Churchill written during the Second World War and mentioning Hitler would be worth tens of thousands of pounds, while his signature itself is widespread.

According to John Wilson, the country's biggest dealer in signed historical documents, if another Shakespeare signature was discovered it would fetch more than £1 million. In the wake of the bard come Queen Elizabeth I, Henry VIII and Sir Thomas More, whose letters have all recently fetched well in excess of £10,000. Others likely to burst through the £10,000 barrier would be Captain Cook and American presidents such as Washington and Lincoln.

Sophie Dupré, another dealer, said that the content of the document and the historical significance of the person was all important. "The most important and influential figures of the past centuries are what people want. Then it is a combination of rarity and desirability. It is always better to have a signed photograph, document or letter than just the signature."

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Government offers summer courses to young poor readers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

ALMOST 900 children who leave primary school without reaching the expected reading standard will be invited to give up part of their summer holiday to catch up. The scheme is the first stage of the Government's drive to raise literacy levels.

Stephen Byers, the Schools Minister, announced yesterday that the 50-hour pilot programme would be launched at 29 comprehensive

schools. If the scheme is successful, it will be expanded next year and may be extended to cover numeracy.

Children who narrowly fail to reach the reading level expected of 11-year-olds will be given priority on this summer's programmes, which will include incentives to ensure pupils last the course.

Teachers and qualified assistants will lead the courses, but parents and some pupils

will be invited to help with individual tuition. Each school will take up to 30 children, offering drama and outside visits as well as conventional teaching.

Mr Byers said: "The first day at secondary school is a daunting experience for all pupils. No child should have the extra worry of being left behind in reading skills when we can do something to help."

The programme will receive £300,000 originally earmarked for the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, which the Government is winding up. Mr Byers said it represented a "reordering of priorities — a clear example of how we intend to give priority to raising standards, not to a sterile debate about structures."

Professor Michael Barber, the government adviser who chaired Labour's literacy task force before the general election, said he had no doubt there would be a strong demand for places. "I would expect that many of these summer schools will be turning children away."

Girls at Charles Edward Brooke School in south London, where the scheme was launched, were divided over whether they would have attended, but supported the initiative. Several said they would volunteer to help this summer. Mary Mensa-Bonsu, 14, said: "I would have been a



Stephen Byers with pupils at Charles Edward Brooke School in south London, where he launched the scheme

hit upset about giving up my summer, but if it was going to help, I reckon I would have done it."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the summer schools were a "welcome initiative", provided teachers' involvement was voluntary. "If this initiative heralds a commitment to rectifying serious under-funding, restoring support services and reducing class sizes which undermine teaching, then it is a welcome first step."

Tony Turner, the head of Hartcliffe School in Bristol,

which is located between two of the town's largest housing estates, said: "At last we have been given some money to do something that could really make a difference. This enables us to deliberately target those students who need help."

Mr Turner said he wanted to make teaching fun for the pupils, so the lessons would depart from traditional methods, where pupils simply sat behind desks passively absorbing information. "We have in attack this problem in a different way. Our summer school will involve singing

and dancing so the kids enjoy the learning process."

Phil Turner, principal of Westgate Community College in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, said a similar scheme run by the school last year had been such a success that the 12 main feeder primary schools would each be offered five places this summer. "People are quick to blame primary schools, but they have had a difficult job to do. They have been required to teach the national curriculum and have not had time to concentrate on basic skills."

The scheme also met with approval from volunteers al-

ready helping children to improve their literacy. Community Service Volunteers has been recruiting teaching assistants for more than 30 years and places some 3,000 volunteers in schools every year to lead curriculum-linked programmes of counselling, language support and literacy.

John Potter, manager of its literacy programme, said: "An emphasis on literacy is crucial for both economic and social reasons," he said. "Kids often get bored in the holidays, so this promises to work well."

Leading article, page 21

Intensive tuition will last up to two weeks

By JOHN O'LEARY

ALMOST a third of 11-year-olds fall into the group the Government is targeting for its literacy summer schools. Although test scores for English improved last year, 30 per cent reached only the standard expected at the age of nine.

Ministers acknowledge that a more concerted effort will be needed to bring the poorest readers up to the target level. But they believe two weeks of intensive tuition could be sufficient for those near the borderline.

Tests taken last month divide pupils into six grades, with Level 4 pitched at the standard expected of an 11-year-old. Last year, 57 per cent reached this mark in English, but Labour's literacy taskforce estimated that 250,000 pupils were leaving primary school with poor reading skills.

The 29 summer schools will prioritise those who reach Level 3. Last year, such pupils could answer basic questions in a comprehension test, but struggled to generalise or draw conclusions from a passage about a boy's relationship with his brother. The tests cover a range of reading skills, including analysis and personal response, as well as straightforward retrieval of information.

Secondary school head teachers noted a decline in reading standards among 11-year-olds, blaming the demands on primary schools of the national curriculum.

SCHOOLS RUNNING COURSES

Allertonshire School, Northallerton, north Yorkshire
Bartley Green Community School, Birmingham
The Blake School, Bridgewater, Somerset
Birchwood Community High School, Warrington
Charles Edward Brooke School, Lambeth, south London
Dyke House Comprehensive School, Hartlepool
Earlsheaton High School, Dewsbury, west Yorkshire
Falings Park High School, Rochdale
Fosford School, Coventry
Halewood Community School, Halewood, Liverpool
Hartcliffe School, Bristol
Leytonstone School, northeast London
Longford Community School, Feltham
North Manchester High School for Boys
Patcham High School, Brighton
Peers School, Oxford
Portway Community School, Bristol
Ridgeway High School, Birkenhead
Sarah Bonnell School, Stratford, east London
Stanley County High School, Ellesmere Port
Stanton Park Community School, Havant, Hampshire
Thomas Tallis School, southeast London
Walker School, Newcastle
Wayland Community High School, Thetford, Norfolk
West Gate Community College, Newcastle
Windsor High School, Salford
Wodensborough Community College, Wednesbury
Woodlands School, Basildon, Essex
Wycliffe Community College, Braunstone, Leicester

Stay-away children win legal right to demand costly individual attention

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIX teenagers from a "lost generation" of children who say they were forced out of school by bullying and other problems launched a legal action yesterday to make a London borough provide them with "suitable" education.

The group, who have fallen out of mainstream education for up to two years, were granted leave in the High Court to seek a judicial review. The five boys and a girl, all receiving legal aid, are said to represent the tip of an iceberg not only in Lambeth but in many other inner city areas.

The test case could force local

authorities to provide expensive individual education for children who, in some cases, have been offered school places but have refused to attend. Four of the teenagers, aged 13 to 15, were removed by their parents because of concern for their safety or because the children feared failure. Two others attend schools run by charities which face funding threats.

Nathalie Lieven, counsel for the group, said that Lambeth, which has more than 300 children lost to the education system, was failing in its duty under the 1996 Education Act. She told Mr Justice Collins: "There are large numbers for whom education is not being provided. One of the

difficulties here is that there are very few schools in Lambeth that will accept children who have been excluded or who have excluded themselves."

The judge told her: "It seems to me that you have grounds for leave to seek judicial review and I rather think Lambeth recognise it." The council did not oppose the application.

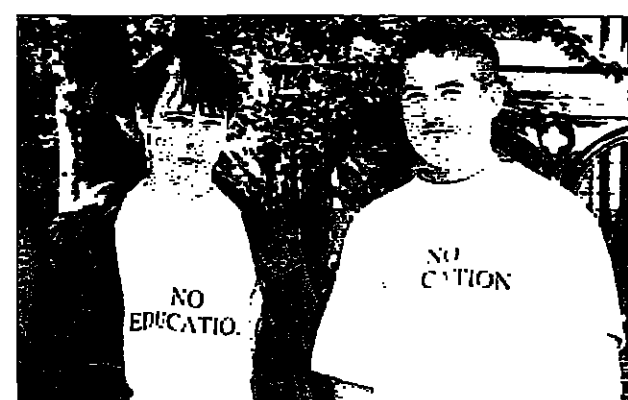
Last night Lambeth indicated that it hoped to settle the case out of court. The authority said it wanted to meet the group "to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the applicants' education". It noted the judge's comment that the dispute

over its learning-support service was "perhaps the old story of Parliament imposing duties on local authorities and not the cash to carry out those duties."

The charity Community and Voluntary Education (Cave), which caters for bullied pupils and others with a phobia about school, fears for its funding and backed the legal action. It provides full-time education for 12 students at the Cave school at Clapham, and literacy and numeracy units. Helen Leigh, its chairwoman, said: "Lambeth has a policy of no education for the 300 children out of school. We have been refused the three-year contract with Lambeth

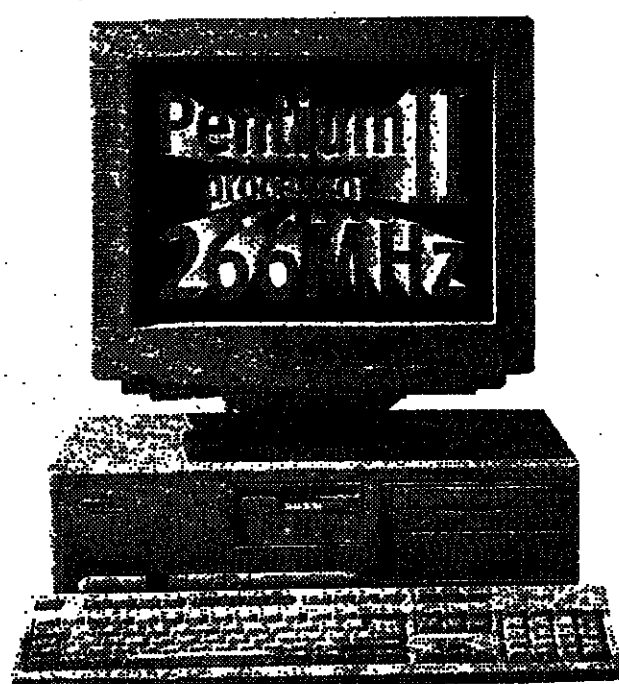
that we need." Monica Uberg, 39, hopes that her son, one of the six applicants, will be enrolled at the Cave school, where he is on a waiting list of 30.

She said that she withdrew Kai, 13, from Kingsdale School, Clapham, in February 1996 after prolonged bullying. "He became ill at the prospect of going to school," Ms Uberg said. She said she had paid for limited private tuition at home before her redundancy made that financially impossible. "I have despaired," she said. "I have received no support at all from Lambeth. Children are being tarnished for the rest of their lives and there needs to be a safety net, otherwise some just drift into crime."



Two of yesterday's High Court applicants

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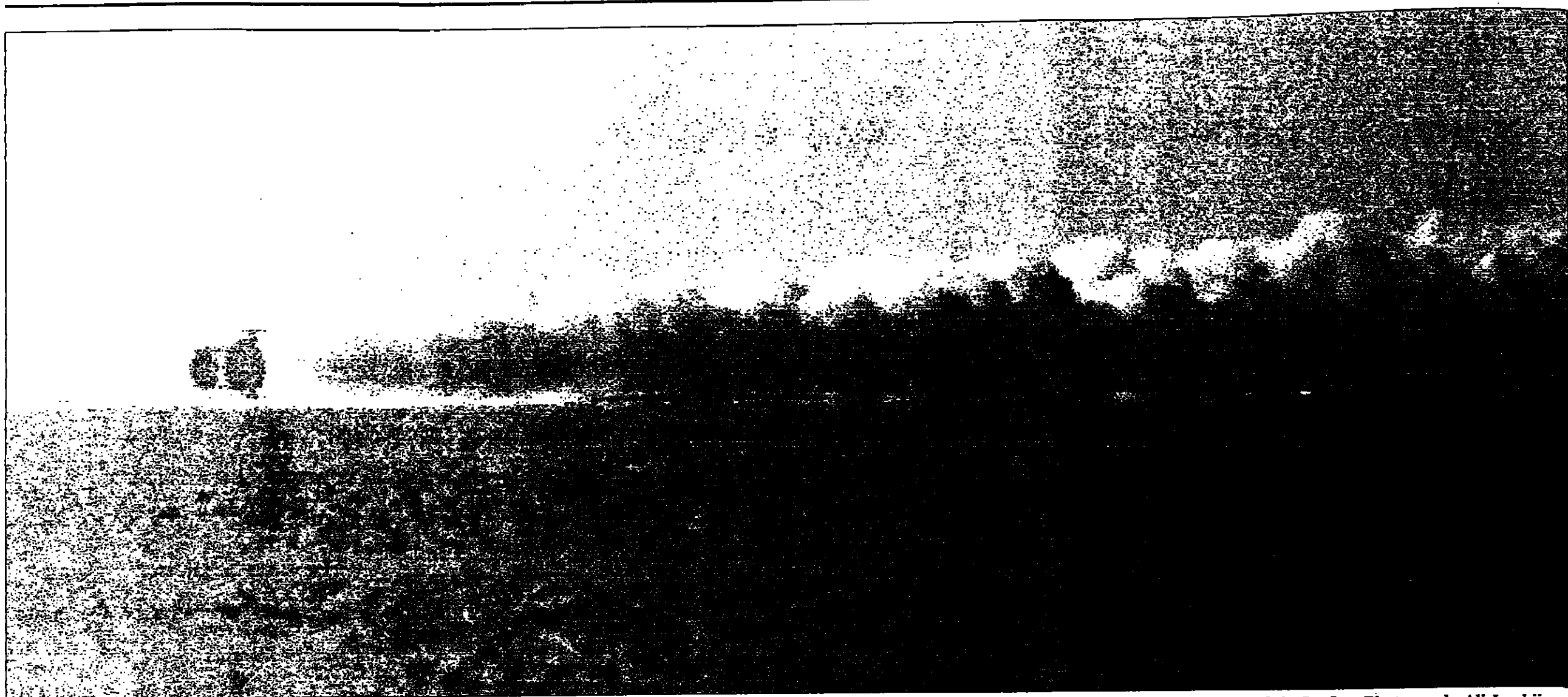
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Desert storm: the 10-tonne Thrust powering across the El Jafr mudflats at 490mph yesterday, leaving a cloud of dust in its wake. The team hopes to exceed 600mph in Jordan. Photograph: Ali Jarekji

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Why not change the way we work?

Thrust team accelerates towards the sound barrier

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

SHORTLY after dawn yesterday, a police car with flashing lights and wailing sirens cleared Bedouin herders, their camels and a convoy of dilapidated trucks from the El Jafr mudflats in southern Jordan.

Andy Green, RAF Tornado pilot, would have had little hope of avoiding them as he hurtled across the desert at close to 500mph in the 10-tonne land speed record car, Thrust SSC.

Thrust's twin jet engines, which produce the power of 141 Formula One cars and consume fuel at four gallons a second — catapulted him to more than 440 mph in little over 12 seconds. He peaked at 490 mph, a plume of dust streaking out behind him, after 2½ miles.

Stopping the 54ft monster took rather longer. Flight Lieutenant Green, looking through the visor of his crash helmet at a speedometer calibrated to 1,000 mph, required another seven miles to slow down, even with a parachute.

The past week has been one of intense activity for the Thrust team, which has been striving to make up for a disappointing series of tests last year, when the car struggled to better 200 mph. Testing was then curtailed by the heaviest rains in five years. Substantial revisions to the car's rear-wheel steering and wheels have since made it more stable at speed and easier to control.

The instability was a major concern for Thrust's engineers. Flight Lieutenant Green is aiming to break the sound barrier, 743 mph, in the world-record attempt in America in September. One tiny deviation at that speed could see the car taking off or ploughing into the Black Rock Desert, Nevada.

Richard Noble, the current world record holder at 633.47 mph and the man behind the new attempt, said after yesterday's run: "I want to see the car go above 600 mph in Jordan and with a

bit of luck we might be up to that speed tomorrow."

He added: "Things have been going fantastically well for us and the car keeps on getting better. We have been turning up the speed notch by notch, wanting to be sure that the car would be stable."

"The important thing was to understand what happens to Thrust at high speeds so that we can predict its behaviour and be sure that it will be absolutely stable."

Thrust will not be seen again until it is shipped to Nevada in September for a confrontation with Craig Breedlove, the American land speed veteran. His car, Spirit of America, crashed in tests last year but should be ready in time for the contest, in which the two teams will run on alternate days in an attempt to claim the record.

Thrust SSC remains favourite because of the power and stability offered by its twin Rolls-Royce Spey engines. "Andy Green is used to flying at 850mph," Mr Noble said, "but breaking the sound barrier on land is a quite different matter. That is when you need courage and fantastic engineering."



Green: needed seven miles to halt Thrust

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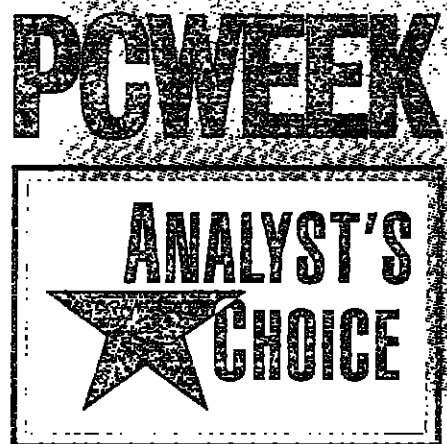
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Founder of Dateline died a reclusive alcoholic

By Adrian Lee

THE founder of the Dateline dating agency, who built a multimillion-pound business by bringing together lonely people, died a reclusive, John Patterson, 52, was a chronic alcoholic, too frightened to leave his country house, an inquest was told.

He had suffered the failure of two long-term relationships when he was found drowned in the bath at the home of his former wife, Sandy Nye, having consumed more than four times the alcohol limit permitted for drivers.

After the inquest, Ms Nye, 52, said that drink had ruined Mr Patterson's life. "He was such a dynamic and brilliant man — it was such a shock to see how he had deteriorated so much. He was in a very bad way — he hadn't washed his clothes for a week and I was really shocked."

Repeated efforts to make him give up drink had failed, she said. She was unable to discover who was supplying him with alcohol and she sometimes found bottles of vodka hidden in trees at Chesterton Manor, his home near Oxford.

Ms Nye, who was divorced from Mr Patterson in 1982 and did not see him for 11 years, said: "It really is so sad what happened to him. He didn't seem to care any more. He

seemed bored with everything. I think it was boredom which led him to drink."

Mr Patterson established Dateline, said to be the world's largest dating agency, in 1966 after watching American students matchmaking by computer. The agency has more than 35,000 members in Britain and was valued by Mr Patterson at £20 million. It is now run by his eldest son, Jonathan, 23, and Ms Nye with a staff of 25.

After his separation, Kim Sellick, Mr Patterson's secretary, became his common-law wife and they had two children. They parted last year and Ms Nye, the mother of his first three children, began looking after him.

The inquest at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, on Monday was told that on the day before his death in January Mr Patterson had left home with Ms Nye and his assistant, Mark Cowley, to help him to overcome his fear of going out.

That night Ms Nye stayed at her home in Walpole St Peter, Norfolk, and the men stayed at her other home, Elm Manor at Elm, Cambridgeshire. Next morning, she discovered Mr Patterson in the bath.

Nat Cary, a Home Office pathologist, said Mr Patterson died from drowning and chronic alcoholism and had probably slipped or fallen in the bath. The amount of alcohol in his body, 367mg in 100ml of blood, would on its own have been enough to kill someone who was not used to drink. William Morris, the Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Yesterday, Frances Pyne, Mr Patterson's deputy at Dateline, rejected the description of Mr Patterson by his former wife. "As far as I am concerned, he remained committed to Dateline until his death," she said. She added that he had had no shortage of visitors to his home and was a generally happy man. "His legacy is a very sound commercial enterprise."



Patterson: bottles of vodka hidden in trees



Matthews with son Jajie. Winter temperatures at her new home drop to minus 40C and the family shoots caribou from their windows

From Leeds to love in a cold climate

A British woman married the Eskimo who saved her father's life, Paul Wilkinson writes

TRACKING caribou and making clothes from skins are not skills an Englishwoman generally needs to bring to a marriage. But for Jo Matthews they are everyday elements in her life with an Eskimo hunter who rescued her father from an icy death after his canoe foundered during a storm.

The scientist's daughter from Leeds dropped out of a zoology degree course in Aberdeen to set up home with Mark Alaqu in a wooden bungalow on the edge of a frozen wilderness near Hudson Bay in northern Canada.

Yesterday at his home in Leeds, her father Barry Matthews, 60, said: "It was love at first sight for Jo. Mark is a very nice person and I approve. He saved my life and he is a wonderful husband for her."

The couple first met in 1994 when Miss Matthews, now 24, joined her father, an environmental scientist, on a month-long scientific expedition to the Arctic, where he was examining climate change. She met Mr Alaqu, 29, at a party in the settlement of

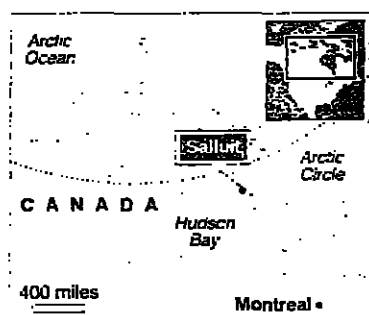
Salluit and joined the Inuit Indian on a hunting trip. She said: "It was a very romantic time. It was a beautiful day and the scenery was wonderful."

She fell for the young Eskimo but had to return to Aberdeen. Meanwhile Dr Matthews and his colleague Robert Nagle, were caught in a storm as they explored a fjord 15 miles from the settlement. Winds gusting to 60 mph smashed their canoe on rocks.

For three days the weather was so bad nobody from the settlement could reach them. Huddled in a tent they survived on wild berries and the carcass of a mitting caribou.

Then, as hopes began to fade, Mr Alaqu arrived in his canoe. Dr Matthews said: "There was still a danger of the water upsetting the canoe, but Mark was skilful and brave and he got us back to safety. He saved our lives. We had run out of food and wouldn't have survived for too much longer."

In the autumn of 1994 his daughter decided to return to Canada and Mr Alaqu. The following February a judge in Salluit married the couple



and they now have a 22-month-old son, Jajie. She said: "When I came to live here with Mark I knew it was exactly the right thing for me to do. I love him. It never felt like a big decision to make. I knew in my own mind I was making the right choice. I have been very, very happy living here. Jajie is our life. He is a very popular child. He is both our son and our best friend."

"This is a good place to bring children up. Kids are the focal point of the whole community and get a lot of attention." Home for her family in

Salluit, population 1,000, is a wooden bungalow — which does have central heating to combat the winter temperatures of minus 40C (-10F). The villagers speak English, French and Eskimo, and the newcomer is now fluent in all three.

Her father said: "When Jo first went there she was against the killing of animals, but she had to change her ideas on that. They have to live off the land. They still eat caribou and there are 400,000 of them. They shoot them from the windows."

"The area is extremely remote, with thousands of square miles of nothing. But the settlement is homely and thriving. The bungalows are built in a traditional French-Canadian style with a balcony and are painted in brilliant colours."

Mrs Alaqu recently took her son and husband to see her native Yorkshire. The trip was partly paid for from an out-of-court settlement of almost £1,000 from Boots the Chemist after film Dr Matthews took on an expedition to the Russian Arctic in 1993 was lost while being processed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Detectives name man found dead on beach

Police named the man found dead on a Norfolk beach last week as Donald Hamerton, 54, from Spixworth, near Norwich. He had been stabbed twice in the chest and police believe his body had been in the sea for up to four weeks. Police found more than £1,000 in his wallet but no identification and identified him by his fingerprints. Detectives are trying to trace his blue Volvo 240 GL estate. A woman aged 49 who had been helping with inquiries was released on police bail yesterday.

WPC claim fails

WPC Kath Brennan, 25, has had a sexual harassment claim dismissed by an industrial tribunal. A criminal case against PC Robert Bridle, a colleague at Halifax Police Station, was thrown out by Bradford Crown Court last year.

Falcons stolen

Peregrine falcon chicks were stolen from nests on the Northumberland moors and over the border at the weekend. Northumbria Police want to trace the occupants of a Citroën car with an Austrian registration, W292 RS.

Students on call

Lancaster University is to become the first college in Britain to install telephones in every room in its halls of residence. Undergraduates will be able to make and receive calls and all cross-campus calls will be free.

WI goes green

The environmentalist Jonathan Porritt will address the annual conference in Birmingham today of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. WI members will debate a call for a government ban on the use of lindane pesticide.

Whisky blaze

The equivalent of a million bottles of whisky was destroyed after a fire at the Loch Lomond Distillery near Alexandria, Strathclyde. More than 80 firemen took five hours to bring the flames under control on Monday night.

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The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

1. How to participate

- Hold a golf day involving at least 12 players and play under the Standard scoring system.
- Complete and send the form, together with the registration fee of £150 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 21st September 1997.
- After your golf day, promptly submit the results of your top scoring golfers, (with official club handprints) one of whom must be an employee of the registering company.

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- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.

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A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgment of receipt of registration or you may obtain a copy by calling the Challenge office (details below) or by Fax/Post on 0900 800 004 (calls cost 45p per minute). The competition is approved by the R & A for payment of expenses Title 1-6 Ecu. 376/6/97.

Further Information

Call the Challenge office on
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Trophy Requirements

Please note to print clearly exactly what you would like on your trophy including punctuation, upper and lower case. We reserve the right to alter the trophy design if necessary.

Date of Golf Day: _____ 1997
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Detectives name man found dead on beach

Detectives named the man found dead on a beach as a victim of a robbery. The man, who was found on a beach near a car, was identified as a 30-year-old man from the north. The robbery took place on the night of the 2nd of June. The man was found with a knife wound to his chest. The police are looking for a man who was seen near the car at the time of the robbery.

WPC claim fails

The claim by the Women's Police Council that the police are discriminating against women is rejected. The council had claimed that the police were not doing enough to protect women from sexual harassment. The court found that the police were doing enough to protect women.

Falcons stolen

Two falcons were stolen from a man's home. The man, who is a falconer, reported the theft to the police. The police are looking for a man who was seen near the man's home at the time of the theft.

Students on call

Students are being called to a meeting. The meeting is being held to discuss the students' concerns about the school's policies. The students are being asked to bring a list of their concerns to the meeting.

WI goes green

The Women's Institute is going green. The institute is planning to plant a large number of trees to help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The trees will be planted in a park near the institute.

Whisky blaze

A fire broke out in a whisky warehouse. The fire started in a room that was used for storing whisky. The fire spread quickly and caused a large amount of damage. The fire is being fought by the fire department.

Guillotine must not replace wider constitutional consultation

The fuss about the imposition of a guillotine on the Scottish and Welsh referendum Bill is mostly, but not entirely, bogus. Opposition MPs always accuse the government of the day of behaving arrogantly and anti-democratically on these occasions, when they did just the same when they were in office. There are several precedents for imposing a guillotine on constitutional measures, though Labour might have had a better case if it had allowed the Tories to let off steam for one day. But this does not mean the row is merely a lot of Commons hot air.

generating heat but little light. The affair has both an immediate and more lasting impact. In the short term, the main significance is for the Lords rather than the Commons. Their lordships like to present themselves as guardians of the constitution. But this is largely a self-appointed role apart from their absolute veto on any Bill to extend the life of a Parliament. The interesting question now is whether the Lords will use the imposition of the guillotine as a pretext for amending the referendum Bill — for example, seeking to give the English the chance to vote, adding an addi-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

tional question and increasing the hurdle required for approval. The Government and the Opposition are currently manoeuvring round each other in the Lords. The Conservatives, of course, have the numbers easily to out-vote Labour whenever they want, even if the Liberal Democrats back the Government. Tory peers have often defeated the proposals of a Labour Government in the past. During the Queen's Speech debate, Lord Richard, Leader of the

Lords, gave an explicit warning to the Opposition that the Government had a mandate and, in particular, "we do have the clear and unmistakable consent of the British people for our proposals for devolution".

Lord Cranborne, the Tory leader, has accepted the so-called Salisbury convention that the Lords does not vote against the second reading of Bills that appeared in the governing party's election manifesto. This was devised by his grandfather when he was in a similar position after the Labour landslide in 1945. However, as Lord Cranborne said, the

Opposition would not be "deflected from what they see to be their duty: to exercise their judgment, to improve, to amend and to scrutinise legislation". This leaves ample scope for interpretation. One peer's constructive amendment is another's wrecking tactic. And, of course, in the background is Labour's promise to end the voting right of hereditary peers, which was not in the Queen's Speech but is still in the long-term programme. So the Tories will not want to overreach themselves, and risk a populist Labour campaign for abolition. At present, Tory leaders in the Lords are being

cautious and not threatening a "Peers versus the People" row. What all this shows is the unsatisfactory way that constitutional measures are considered by Parliament. There is general agreement that these should be considered differently from other Bills; hence the convention that their committee stages should be on the floor of the House. But all parties now accept that approval of constitutional changes should involve more than just a Commons majority won by the Government. Their recent election manifestos promised referendums on a single currency and/or other

constitutional changes. This implies a degree of formal extra-parliamentary entrenchment going beyond traditional notions of parliamentary sovereignty. The Government is entitled to impose a guillotine on the referendum Bill, which is, after all, only a preliminary measure. But it needs to be careful, and not just because of the already apparent risks of winner-takes-all triumphalism. Ministers also need to consider new ways of considering constitutional measures, instead of just relying on their huge majority.

PETER RIDDELL

Ministers warned of long haul for referendum Bill

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is bracing itself for a battle with Tory peers over legislation providing for a referendum on Scottish devolution after limiting the time MPs had to debate the move.

The suggestion that the Lords will subject the referendum Bill to detailed and time-consuming scrutiny — jeopardising the September vote planned by the Government — came yesterday after Tory MPs expressed their anger that discussions on it in the Commons were curtailed.

Among those attacking the imposition of a "guillotine" on MPs was Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, who accused ministers of treating the House in an "arrogant and dismissive" way. He said that when Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, announced on Monday evening that the debate would be subject to a guillotine, there was a "staggering response" from Labour members.

"It was the palpable self-satisfaction of a group who clearly felt: 'We are the masters now'."

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory

Chief Whip in the Lords, said there was a great deal of frustration at the way the Government was "riding roughshod" over Parliament. When a Bill was guillotined in the Commons, preventing parts of it from being debated, there was a view that the Lords should give those parts "greater scrutiny than perhaps would have otherwise been the case".

The Lords might also table any number of amendments. Lord Strathclyde said: "We haven't yet decided how long [the Bill] will have in committee in the House of Lords. . . . The Government is under no illusion that we are going to clear this Bill in a couple of days. We know it's going to take a long time. People expect that. That's what the House of Lords is for."

He said the Government clearly had a mandate for its referendum, but questioned why it had to happen so quickly.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said he hoped "very much" that Tory peers would not delay the Bill unnecessarily. "It would be ill-advised for them to do so in terms of

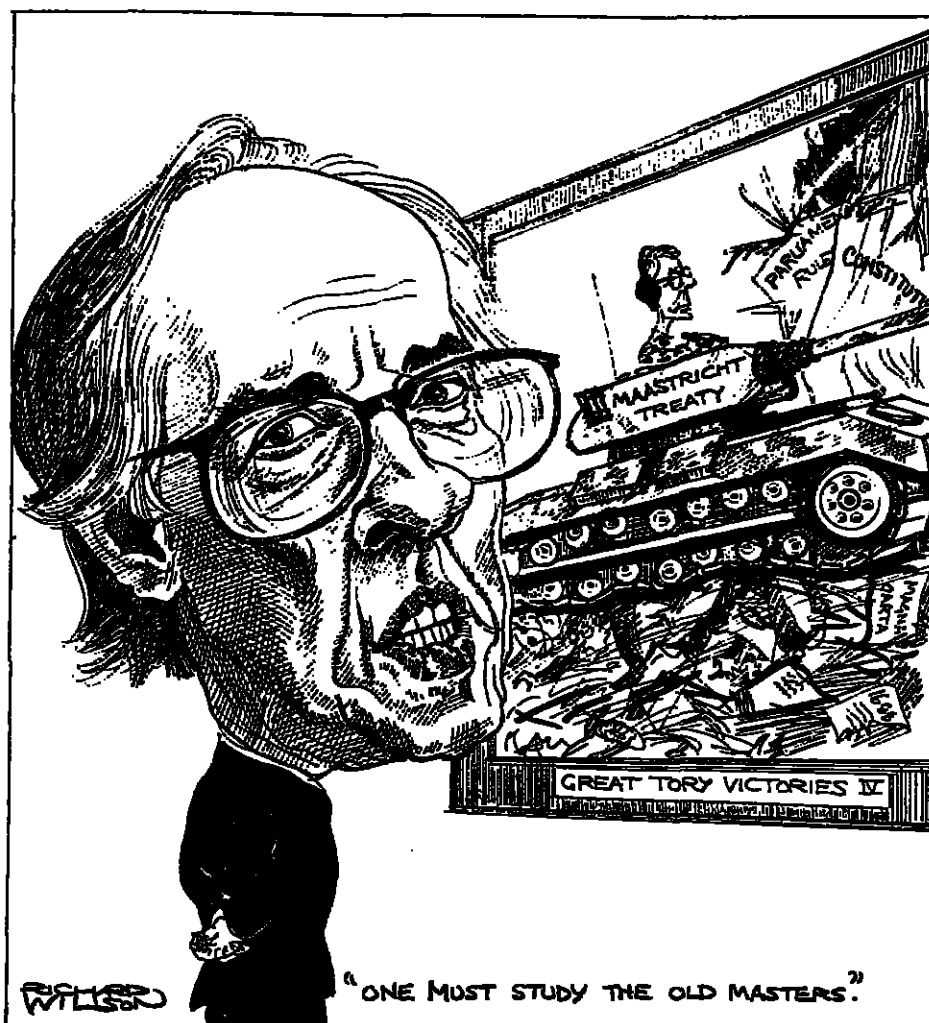
public perception over their role," he said.

In the Commons debate on the Bill, Mr Dewar said there were precedents for the imposition of guillotines on important Bills. "We cannot have it perpetuated that this has never been done before and that this is some sort of jungle territory we are plunging into where democracy will die among the snakes."

The Tories had attempted "an exercise in obstruction" by tabling more than 200 amendments and the Government had responded by making sure the Bill was not lost because of time pressures. He said the Bill was simply a "paving measure".

Mr Dewar refused to give any assurance that no guillotine would be used during the debate on devolution itself, or that a Bill to set up a Scottish parliament would be debated in the Commons chamber rather than in committee.

The prospect of a row in the Lords over the Scottish referendum came as John Major revealed that most of the Tory big guns, including himself and Michael Heseltine, have been meeting to plan the



party's response to the Government's devolution plans. The committee includes four of the Tory leadership challengers and the former Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram, a Scot who has been tipped to take over the role of Shadow Scottish Secretary in

the absence of any Scottish Tory MPs. The MPs and peers on the committee are Mr Major, Mr Heseltine, Mr Howard, Mr Ancram, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Howard, Brian Mawhinney, Stephen Dorrell, Viscount Cranborne, William Hague,

Alastair Goodlad and Lord Strathclyde. Also on the committee are Audrey Hull, chairman Wales region, Paul Valerio, vice-chairman Wales region, Miss Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Scottish Tory party and David McLetchie, president of the Scottish party.

Fringe parties may seize Irish levers of power

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Green Party, Sinn Féin and a handful of independents could hold the balance of power in the next Irish government.

With the government and opposition coalition parties running neck and neck, attention is turning to what the smaller parties would seek if the main parties fail to make up the required majority in Friday's general election.

The Green Party, which appears on course to win up to four of the 106 seats on offer, would not say yesterday whether it would join the government coalition of Fine Gael, Labour and the Democratic Left or the opposition parties of Fianna Fáil and Progressive Democrats.

John Gormley, the former Lord Mayor of Dublin who is standing for the Green Party in Dublin South East, says it would side with the parties promising a referendum on maintaining Irish neutrality. It will also seek commitments to the introduction of increased taxes on natural resources and pesticides.

The Green Party is expected to attract floating voters who supported Labour at the last election in 1992. Trevor Sergeant, the party's only sitting MP, is likely to be returned to North Dublin.

There is a strong chance that the Greens will take seats from two sitting Progressive Democrats. Michael McDowell is losing to Mr Gormley and Liz O'Donnell losing to Gerry Boland in Dublin South.

The government parties are receptive to the inclusion of the Green Party in their rainbow coalition. Bertie Ahern, the Fianna Fáil leader, has ruled out anything other than a two-party coalition.

With government parties trailing by only four percentage points, only independents rather than a party might be required to secure the majority of 83 seats. In the last election there were 108 independents, including anti-abortion candidates standing for seats. This year the figure has risen to 149, with people standing against immigration, water charges and satellite television, and in favour of nudist beaches.

One of the most influential independent members of the Dail is expected to be Michael Lowry, the former Fine Gael minister. He was struck off the party list after it emerged that he had received thousands of pounds in untaxed income from the supermarket tycoon Ben Dunn. He is expected to come first or second in North Tipperary.

Tory leadership: contest enters final phase with many MPs keeping their intentions hidden

Parkinson boosts Hague campaign

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD PARKINSON issued a ringing endorsement of William Hague's Tory party leadership campaign yesterday when he accorded him the ultimate Thatcherite accolade: "He is one of us."

The backing of Lord Parkinson, who was one of Margaret Thatcher's closest aides, was an important boost to Mr Hague. The announcement was carefully timed to come only 24 hours after Mr Hague had met Baroness Thatcher.

Lord Parkinson, who confirmed he had been approached by several other right-wing candidates, said it had been a difficult choice as he had worked with the others. "But we are approaching into a new era and a new century," he said. He then borrowed one of Lady Thatcher's favourite phrases: "I'd be very surprised if William does not fall into the category of 'one of us.' In fact, I know he is one of us."

Not that Lady Thatcher

necessarily agrees. The former Prime Minister telephoned one senior rightwinger yesterday and apparently asked: "Is William Hague a rightwinger?" Lord Parkinson, however, was in no doubt. "He is firmly in the best centre-right tradition," he said. "It's very important that a centre-right person wins."

He conceded that Mr Hague was very young to be leader, but he added: "See what Mr Blair has achieved by the time he was 36, and you see that he compares less favourably, William was the youngest Cabinet minister for decades. He has outperformed Blair at every stage in their chosen careers so far."

One of Mr Hague's rivals, John Redwood, stepped up his campaign yesterday with the publication of his own shadow Budget. He urged Gordon Brown to announce a £2.5 billion cut in public spending when he announces his Bud-



Hague endorsed in Thatcherite terms

get on July 2. He said that it could be paid for by scrapping English regional government, expanding privatisation and waging war on social security fraud.

"Out of these savings he could increase spending on health by £600 million and on schools by £400 million. . . . The electorate made their views clear when they rejected our spending plans on May 1. The Conservatives have learnt from the election, yet Labour remains wedded to the spending plans they inherited from us."

Rival camps target the floating fifty

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE voting intentions of at least 50 Tory MPs were unknown to the camps of the six contenders to replace John Major as the campaign for the first ballot entered its last week yesterday.

Those MPs will, of course, eventually be crucial to the outcome. But over the next six days the candidates will seek their help for clearing the first hurdle. They will be frantically canvassed and courted as the candidates strive to ensure that their showing in the first round next Tuesday is respectable enough for them to move on to the second a week later, before a possible run-off between the two front-runners two days after that.

A battle for supremacy is being played out on the Right. Its four representatives — Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, John Redwood and William Hague — know that they must finish in the first three places next Tuesday, or at least come a very good fourth, to have a serious chance of ultimate

success. But with one of those places almost certain to be taken by Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor and apparent frontrunner, disappointment is certain for some. The sixth candidate is Stephen Dorrell, who is believed to be trailing the field.

The view at Westminster is that Mr Hague and Mr Lilley are ahead of Mr Howard and Mr Redwood, but not by a substantial amount.

Under the complicated election rules there is no requirement on anyone to drop out after the first ballot. But it would be pointless for the candidates in fifth and sixth place to expect to do any better in the second ballot, and there would be serious doubt as to whether the fourth-placed candidate could improve his position. The key issue that the contenders will be pondering will be whether they should throw in the towel if they fail to finish in the first three next week. And the key question for MPs will be to whom should they switch their support if their first choices drop out.

In a hypothetical situation

THE TIMETABLE	
June 5:	Nominations close
June 10:	First ballot
June 17:	Second ballot
June 19:	Final ballot

where Mr Clarke led the contest with 50 votes, with Mr Hague on 30 and Mr Lilley on 26, a fourth-placed Mr Howard on 24 votes might well feel it was worth carrying on in the hope of picking up some of Mr Redwood's 20 votes (assuming of course that he stood down) or Mr Dorrell's 10.

But if Mr Howard were well behind, he might well decide that the way to avoid humiliation in the second ballot would be to stand down. He would also be freeing his own supporters to choose again from the remaining candidates. Yesterday, however, friends of the former Home Secretary were adamant. He would be in the second ballot whatever the result of the first because he felt he could count on votes from supporters of the less favoured candidates.

The other imponderable for

observers trying to predict the outcome is the intentions of the backers of the candidates who pull out after the first or second ballots. The commonly held opinion on the Right is that in the end enough of the votes of its four contenders will combine to ensure that Mr Clarke is defeated in the final round.

Others are not so sure. They say that if Mr Clarke were to be well ahead on the first round he could go on to eventual victory through gaining the support of non-ideologues and centrists who see him as the best candidate to rough up Tony Blair over the next few years.

MPs will spend next weekend weighing their choices. They will consider what is best for their party, but they would not be human if they did not consider, too, what was best for their own prospects. What would, for example, be the best course for a middle-aged former middle-ranking minister who still has aspirations to making the Cabinet under the next Tory government? He might think that he would

prosper more under the 56-year-old Mr Clarke than the 36-year-old Mr Hague.

And would Mr Hague's supporters necessarily want to fall in behind Mr Lilley in a final run-off if he narrowly beats their man? Several have already made plain privately that in those circumstances they would favour Mr Clarke.

It adds up to one of the most fascinating and unpredictable leadership elections in any party for decades. The contenders can make claims but no one can really tell at this stage. A final run-off between Mr Clarke and Mr Hague looks the most likely outcome.

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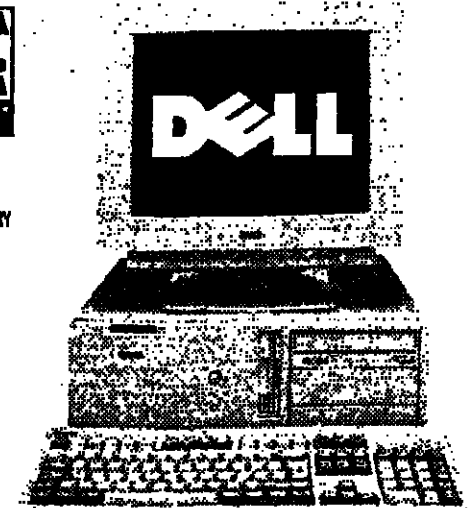
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Deal over EU veto clears way for new Union treaty

BRITAIN yesterday agreed with its European partners the outline of a deal which would let the European Union run its foreign policy partly through majority decision-making rather than unanimity.

The understanding, in which member states retain the right to apply a veto over national interest, clears one of the remaining hurdles in the path to a revamped Union treaty. This is to be clinched by EU leaders in Amsterdam in a fortnight.

While the Government accepts majority voting in certain new areas, it has, like its Conservative predecessor, resisted pressure to dilute the veto in foreign policy, immigration and other areas of sovereign policy. British officials insisted that the new mechanism effectively meant a possible veto continued to apply to all areas of foreign policy.

The Dutch Government, which holds the current EU presidency, was optimistic after the final ministerial negotiating session before Amsterdam that "Maastricht II" would be completed on schedule. While the election of a French Socialist government has transformed the outlook for monetary union, it is not expected to reopen much debate on the new EU treaty.

Lionel Jospin, the new Prime Minister, is expected to insist on a beefed-up version of the "employment chapter", a section which has been inserted in the new treaty.

European decision-making will be easier under an agreement made yesterday — but Britain insists on keeping an 'emergency brake' for foreign policy issues

Germany, backed by Britain, is opposing one clause in an otherwise anodyne text that merely commits states to observing guidelines on employment policy and submitting the national record to EU review. The disputed passage promises financial "incentives" for states to promote full employment.

Bonn refuses to contemplate spending any more EU money, especially in a field which it considers national, rather than EU, business. While the Government now backs the employment chapter, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, says he shares Germany's misgivings.

Nothing could illustrate better the gulf between France's left-wing Government and

Britain's than the manoeuvring over the employment chapter. Tony Blair persuaded his fellow leaders last month to insert commitments to a flexible, market-oriented employment policy.

This irritated the former Gaullist Government and, according to French officials, is disliked by the Socialists, who came to power promising a state that would impose stronger regulation on market forces. The EU business world was alarmed at moves yesterday by the French state, which owns 51 per cent of Renault, to force the car maker to reverse its decision to close its Belgian factory at Vilvoorde, near Brussels. The sudden closure was denounced by Socialists across the Continent as a

violation of the spirit of "social Europe", or EU's social chapter.

M. Jospin is expected to make big political play with the employment chapter as proof that he is carrying out his mandate to make jobs the overriding priority of his Government. Elisabeth Guigou, a former Socialist minister and likely member of the new Jospin Cabinet, yesterday insisted on the need for an employment chapter. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said Bonn officials would probably acquiesce in the name of harmony with its main European partner.

Germany, almost alone now in its commitment to a euro launched with absolute monetary rigour, is resisting M. Jospin's demands for an "economic government" of Europe to match the monetary powers of the future European Central Bank.

The compromise on foreign policy is aimed at solving a widely agreed acceptance of the fact that the need for

unanimity in every action often hampers the 15 from swift action on the world stage. Under the new arrangement, the EU's leaders will settle broad policy, called "common strategies", by unanimity.

Governments will put them into practice on the basis of qualified majority voting. The sovereignty qualms of Britain, France and others are answered by an "emergency brake". This will allow a country to object to a joint action for reasons of national interest. The decision will then be sent back to the heads of government for a unanimous decision. Under another scheme, also accepted by Britain, countries may abstain from actions that they disagree with.

Unless there is new agreement by officials later this week, the leaders at Amsterdam will be left to hammer out compromises on the outstanding issues. The most complicated involves the scheme to lift all EU internal frontiers and centralise controls over immigration and some police work. Britain has been assured of an opt-out, along with Ireland, but the draft texts so far satisfy few states.

A battle is now under way between the smaller states, which want to retain maximum voting power and a presence in the Commission, and the big members, including Britain, which want to put a lid on the expanding Brussels executive.



Travelling hopefully: the views of Heng, top, in Singapore's *Lianhe Zaobao*, and Veenbos, above, in Vienna's *Der Standard*, on the Socialist victory in France

Pope condemns 'the wall of division'

Gniezno, Poland: The Pope said yesterday that a wall of economic and political selfishness as divisive as the Berlin Wall was threatening European unity.

"Since the collapse of the visible wall, another invisible one has been discovered, one that continues to divide our continent, the wall that exists in people's hearts," he said in a sermon at an open-air Mass.

The pontiff, on the fourth day of an 11-day

pilgrimage to his homeland, told a rapturous crowd of 250,000 people in Gniezno, Poland's first capital, that there must be continued commitment towards co-operation between European countries. He thanked God for the fall of Communism but said that Europeans were divided by "a wall made out of fear and aggressiveness, of a lack of understanding for people of different origins, different colour, different religious convictions". (Reuters)

Prime Minister sets off on hectic summer of summitry

By MICHAEL BINGON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BLAIR AGENDA

WITH the future of Europe now hanging largely on the direction of France's Socialist Government, Tony Blair sets off tomorrow for a key meeting of fellow left-leaning Prime Ministers who control all but two of the 15 European Union states.

Mr Blair flies to Malmö, Sweden, for a meeting of the Socialist International, at which Lionel Jospin, the new French Prime Minister, is expected to outline the changes he wants to see in plans for economic and monetary union (EMU). Many other leaders of left-wing governments, or those in coalition with the Left, will also be eager to hear Mr Blair's proposals for the EU next year when Britain holds the presidency during the crucial run-up to the start of monetary union.

Mr Blair's visit marks the beginning of a hectic summer of summitry that will barely calm down before the de-

manding timetable of the EU presidency. This has suddenly become more important because of the new faces now sitting around the top tables.

After Malmö, Mr Blair will fly to Bonn for talks with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. These are likely to focus on the prospects now for EMU, as will his visit next week to Paris for his first bilateral meeting with M. Jospin.

On June 16 and 17 Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will attend the EU Amsterdam summit at which all EU leaders hope to conclude the Maastricht II treaty. Three days after it ends, the two will travel to America for the annual summit of the Group of Seven industrialised countries — now expanded to eight to include Russia.

Mr Blair then flies back via New York where he will take part in the follow-up conference to the Rio Earth Summit, and where he is expected to

make an important speech about Britain's commitment to the global environment.

Barely a week after he returns, he and Mr Cook fly out to Hong Kong for the handover of sovereignty to China. A week later, the two men will be in Madrid for the crucial Nato summit which will decide which new countries will be admitted as full members of the alliance.

There will be a brief break in August, but the political season starts again in September with a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels and the United Nations General Assembly session. Mr Cook will accompany the Queen to India in October, and he and Mr Blair will return for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Edinburgh.

□ Stockholm: Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, declared yesterday the country would not join EMU at the proposed January 1999 start. He said the project was uncertain and shaky. (Reuters)



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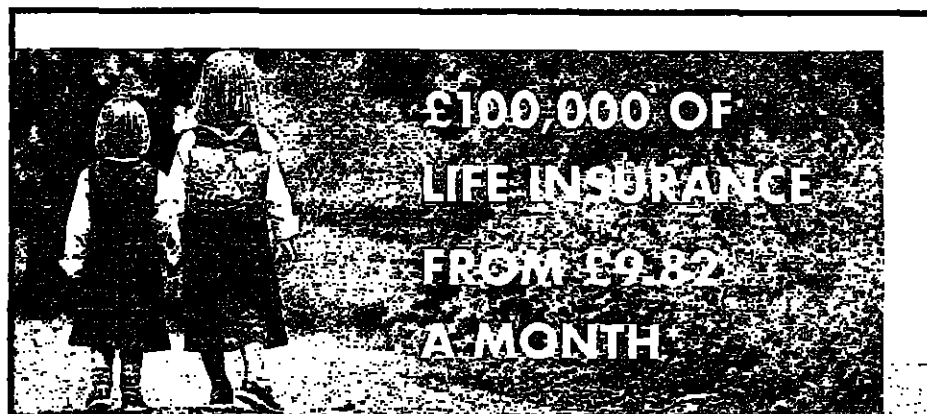
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Socialists' call for new talks on euro pact opens rift with Kohl

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRANCE'S Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, devoted just 13 minutes to a ceremony installing him as Prime Minister yesterday before vanishing into his new office to prepare a Cabinet and address the mounting pressures of government — most immediately a potential row with Germany over economic and monetary union.

M Jospin beamed as Alain Juppé, his vanquished predecessor, formally handed over power, but he already has much to preoccupy him. Just hours before M Jospin entered the prime ministerial residence at the Hôtel Matignon,

FRANCE

François Hollande, the Socialist spokesman, said the party wanted to reopen negotiations on the stability pact approved last December to limit deficits after the launch of the single currency.

"We want to have assurances that the stability pact does not mean more austerity for France," M Hollande said, opening the first big difference of opinion between France and Germany over EMU.

Under the stability agreement, governments within the single currency would be penalised if their deficits exceed 3 per cent of gross domestic product. M Hollande's

remarks appeared to undercut the very basis of the deal. "We want to be sure that sanctions will not be applied if the main objectives are not reached," he said.

At the same time, Elisabeth Guigou, the Socialist MP certain to play a key role in the Cabinet, insisted that France would stick to the EMU timetable. The Socialists have laid down a number of conditions for the euro, including membership of Italy and Spain from the outset and a European economic government to balance an independent central bank.

The Communist Party, which holds the balance of power, has brought intense pressure to bear on its Socialist allies, citing an under-

taking that there would be no further austerity measures in the drive for a single currency as a condition for supporting the Government.

The administration's early emphasis on renegotiating the stability pact will sharply increase German fears of the single currency being delayed or derailed. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, indirectly intervened in the French election campaign two weeks ago when he said he did not believe the pact should be tampered with.

Herr Kohl shelved plans to travel today to Paris, where he was due to address the parliamentary assembly of the Western European Union. A spokesman insisted that

the cancellation was not linked to the French election. The issue of the stability pact is only of several likely bones of contention between the new Prime Minister and President Chirac. In an early sign of what many predict will be a most prickly "cohabitation", M Jospin was reported to be planning to attend all international summits with M Chirac, beginning with the European Union meeting in Amsterdam on June 10 — an apparent bid to buck the tradition that leaves the international stage to the President.

M Jospin said he would give his keynote policy speech in parliament on June 17. He has already sketched out the broad outlines of his Cabinet, to be announced

within 48 hours, with women in several of the most powerful posts.

Martine Aubry, the former Labour Minister, is tipped for the Social Affairs portfolio, and Catherine Trautmann, the outspoken Mayor of Strasbourg, is expected to take over Justice. Mme Guigou and Laurent Fabius, a former Prime Minister, are the leading candidates for Foreign Minister.

As M Juppé bowed out, heads continued to roll in the centre-right coalition. Jean-François Mancel, secretary-general of the Gaullist RPR party, resigned and Philippe Séguin, the former Speaker, reportedly threatened a "knife fight to the finish" if M Juppé tried to retain control of the party.

WORLD SUMMARY

Ex-king stripped of Greek land

Athens: A special high court has upheld a 1994 Socialist Act stripping former King Constantine of Greece of his property there (John Carr writes). The majority decision is widely believed to have been the result of government pressure.

From his London home, the former king, 57, said that he would continue his fight for the property at the International Court of Justice.

The land includes an estate at Tatoi, north of Athens — which is the royal family's burial place — and Mon Repos Palace on Corfu, birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh. Both have been derelict for 25 years.

La Fenice pledge

Rome: The winner of the competition to rebuild La Fenice opera house in Venice, which burned down last year, has vowed to complete the work ahead of schedule and in time for the millennium. Gae Aulenti, 70, a prominent Italian architect whose previous commissions include the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, said her design had placed emphasis on security to guard against fires.

Media son dead

New York: The son of Gerald Levin, head of Time Warner Inc. the US communications conglomerate, has been stabbed to death in his Manhattan apartment. The body of Jonathan Levin, 31, was found by police here late on Monday night (Tunku Varadarajan writes). He was face down in a pool of blood, and gagged with tape. He had been dead about 72 hours.

Statue 'cried'

Rome: The Vatican ruled that tears of blood shed by a statue of the Virgin Mary, north of here, just over two years ago were "authentic", but stopped short of declaring the phenomenon a miracle. The statue was first reported to have cried on February 2, 1995. There have been 50 witnesses to the phenomenon. The Vatican said that it had detected no signs of "trickery".

Backbench rebels force climbdown by Bonn on gold

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERMANY

HELMUT KOHL'S Government, alarmed by backbench rebellion, yesterday dropped controversial plans to use national gold reserves in an attempt to meet economic and monetary union targets for 1997.

The deal with the Bundesbank ends, or at least suspends, a damaging row with the central bank that had spread alarm in European markets and among Germany's partners. According to Christian Democrat sources, Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has agreed with the bank that the country's gold reserves will be revalued only at the year's end. Resulting profits will be transferred to the Government in 1998.

The move is supposed to banish the impression that Bonn was prepared to scrape away the bank's independence and fiddle the figures to meet the Maastricht public finance and debt criteria.

The absence of gold profits this year leaves a gaping hole of around DM10 billion (£3.5 billion) in the budget. But the retreat was essential.

Knives were out for Herr Waigel, who looked as if he might not survive a no-confidence motion today. Herr Kohl cancelled a Paris visit so he could defend publicly both his vision of EMU and his embattled minister. The Government never doubted that the forced dismissal of Herr Waigel would be the beginning of the end for the Kohl team.

Christian Democrat deputies were furious about the revaluation plan and the suggestion that Germany was indulging in "creative accounting" to stay on course for EMU. Several younger deputies threatened to vote against the Government if it tried to amend the Bundesbank law —

necessary if Bonn were to get its hands on gold profits this year.

With a parliamentary majority of five votes, the Chancellor's party managers were nervous. Worse, the Bavarian Christian Social Union — Herr Waigel's party — gave him a rough time on Monday, telling him they would not tolerate any trickery. The minister told them that Germany would, without Bundesbank gold, certainly miss the total debt target of 60 per cent of gross domestic product in 1997. But Herr Waigel promised to do all in his power to keep the public deficit down to the required 3 per cent of GDP.

As far as the German Government is concerned, the crisis has abated. Yet the fundamental problems remain and the Government is still skating on very thin ice. There are only three ways of balancing the budget: to borrow more money (pushing Germany well beyond the

Maastricht ceilings), to cut spending (which would be blocked by the Social Democrat-dominated upper house) or to raise taxes (which could lead to the defection of the Free Democrats from the coalition Government).

Despite the pledges of Herr Waigel, the Maastricht 3 per cent target is as far away as ever. The mistimed grab for the national gold reserves has pushed the Government into a corner. The unspoken addendum to yesterday's ceasefire agreement was that the Kohl administration would now do anything to keep the euro hard — and keep countries such as Italy out of the initial nucleus.

Only a tougher line can restore Germany's now tarnished reputation as a pillar of fiscal rectitude. But France, Bonn's chief partner in the single currency adventure, is steering towards a softer edge, easier entry terms and early Italian accession.

London: John Major yesterday urged Tony Blair to use this month's Amsterdam summit to delay the single currency (Philip Webster writes).

The former Prime Minister said in an interview on Radio 4's *The World at One* that his new stance was prompted by the Socialist victory in the French elections and the German Government's attempt to revalue gold.

Mr Major said: "It has now become apparent that they are not going to have the right economic conditions by January 1, 1999. Now we face different circumstances. We now face circumstances that it seems possible to me to almost dismiss the possibility of the right conditions being there. That being the case, we have to guard against the danger of fudge."

Letters, page 21



Diplomatic ties: Robin Cook, left, with Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, in Luxembourg

Britain offers extra help for Albania poll

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALY

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday announced after talks with Lamberto Dini, his Italian counterpart, that Britain would send 45 extra monitors to the elections in Albania at the end of this month.

Mr Cook said that Britain already had eight monitors in place, but Franz Vranitsky, the former Austrian Chancellor and envoy to Albania for the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), had asked London to send further observers, bringing the British total to 53, 15 of whom would be MPs drawn from all parties.

The Foreign Secretary said Herr Vranitsky wanted a total observer force of at least 300 to ensure that the election process had "clear transparency" and was conducted with sufficient stability to give Albanian

voters "confidence in the electoral process". But Mr Cook said Britain would not contribute troops to the Italian-led intervention force in Albania.

He praised the Italian role in Albania, but said that Britain was already heavily committed in Bosnia, and in terms of manpower, logistics and cash "we are not in an easy position

to contribute to any other expeditionary force". A military operation such as Albania "is difficult for us to contemplate", he said.

Mr Cook made clear that his reference on taking office to Britain, France and Germany as the "big three" of Europe was not intended as an insult to Italy. "I have assured Mr Dini that no offence was intended, and in that spirit none was taken," he said he

was happy to make it clear that Italy, like Britain, France and Germany, was a "leading member of Europe", and Italy and Britain had a great deal in common on the issue of EU enlargement to include Central and Eastern European countries.

Mr Cook said he had simply intended to signal that Britain wanted to take part in the shaping of the European agenda.

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BUD 09

Ex-commando chief tipped to follow Peres

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S main opposition Labour Party was choosing a new leader yesterday, with Ehud Barak, 55, the country's most decorated soldier, widely tipped to take over from Shimon Peres.

Now aged 73, Mr Peres had refused to retire gracefully, despite losing a record five general elections. Many of the 167,000 Labour members entitled to vote were hopeful that the party would now provide a more effective opponent to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister.

All opinion polls predict a sizeable win for Mr Barak, seen by himself and others as a younger version of the

assassinated Yitzak Rabin, the former Prime Minister. Emphatic and tough-talking, Mr Barak campaigned as the only candidate with a hope of beating Mr Netanyahu at the next general election in 2000. His pitch, in a country obsessed by security, was boosted by the fact that he was Mr Netanyahu's former commander in the elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit.

Facing Mr Barak in the poll were Yossi Beilin, 48, one of the architects of the Oslo peace deal; Shlomo Ben-Ami, a Moroccan-born novice politician; and Ephraim Sneh, a physician and former senior military commander.

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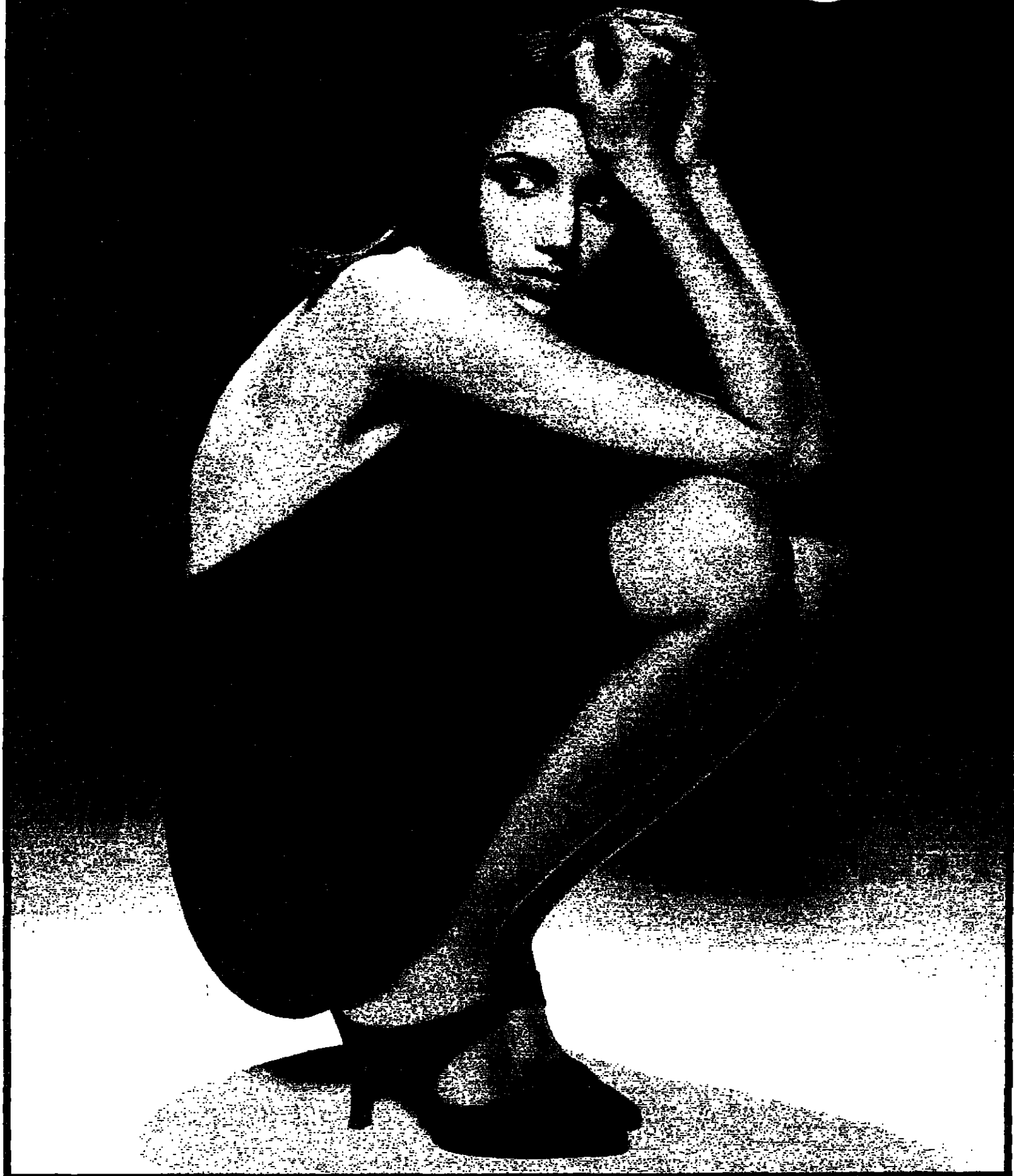
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FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

[illegible]

The secrets of summer legs



Long hot days mean long, brown limbs. But how can you avoid the risky informality of bare legs? **Deborah Brett** on some sheer solutions

Stylish women are never out of step. And with this summer's focus on footwear, what unites them is their tights. Even in the current heatwave, they understand the unwritten rule that however groomed your legs may be, there is a risky informality in bare legs.

Making the transition between black tights and a summer dress can cause confusion, and the combination of the two is a definite mistake. So, instead of going bare, why not invest in this season's newest range of natural look tights?

Attempting the natural look was, in the past, a nightmare. The denier was so thick that you appeared to be wearing wrinkled brown bandages on your legs, and the only colours available were deathly pale or American Tan. And when it came to wearing open-toed shoes, the thought of a reinforced toe with a thick seam protruding from the front of their sandals sent women running bare-legged in the other direction.

But recently the situation has improved, with hosiery companies finally developing legwear that looks and feels natural. In the past, European manufacturers have excelled at providing a large range of colours. Recently, however, the selection in British department stores has grown, and time spent investigating what colour and denier suit your skin tone is time well spent.

Gabriella Di Nora, head of Personal Shopping at Selfridges, is firmly in favour of tights rather than bare legs for summer. "Why the English women, with their delicate skin, massacre their bare feet in shoes I just don't know. Tights are simply a must — especially when it comes to anything formal, whether it be work or a special occasion." Her advice is to choose warm flesh and biscuity tones.

This summer, there are countless shades on offer with the most innovative of names, for example, Emotion, Nougat, Hazel and even Gobi (as in the desert). Not only can many of these tights conceal blemishes and minor scars and marks, they can also enhance your colouring and add a slight tan.

Advances in fibre technology, and especially fibre mixes, have meant that tights cover the leg smoothly and retain their shape after repeated wearing. Many also have a high strength denier without appearing any thicker — a great boon to anyone who tends to snag fine tights in the

first five minutes or even in the process of putting them on.

Our pictures show natural-looking tights, although there are plenty of glossier options. However, tights with a high shine finish, fashionable three years ago, now seem slightly tired. Trends have moved on to a less artificial look. Another point to bear in mind is that shine makes the legs look fatter, although there are the lucky few with thin enough legs to get away with it.

A gloss finish will pep up an evening outfit — but should never be worn with open-toed high strappy sandals. Other summer hosiery mistakes include the fashion pack's continued belief that little girl ankle socks or knee-length pop socks worn with strappy sandals are a viable option.

Despite the arrival of summer, many women feel unable

different styles of footwear available, from strappy sandals, high and low-heeled mules, to the new wedge heel.

The emphasis is on colour and texture, from suede to wood, raffia, wicker and cork. Legs must therefore remain natural so as not to upstage the shoe. The natural look is not, however, a cheap option. A pedicure and leg wax are essential — there is nothing worse than stubble and broken toe nails poking through sheer legwear.

Best of the season's crop are Marks & Spencer's Natural Tan Pearl Shiny tights — slightly shiny, with a natural look. Sheer Lights by Pretty Polly are a serious contender for the "I can't believe you're wearing tights" award. Originally known as Summer Lights, Pretty Polly has, owing to demand, made them available all year round. They are matte, and despite having a seven denier look, they have 20 denier strength. Colours range from a pale English rose hue to chocolate and there's a shadow toe that provides slight reinforcement without being obvious.

Ultra 5 tights by Aristoc are the finest of the fine, at five denier (though they also come in 10 and 15), and the palette ranges from nude to sunblushed and bare gold. For those who prefer a totally nude look, Aristoc has also brought out Soleil Ultra Sheer in seven denier — an updated version of last summer's tights, with a matte finish, four colour choices and a shadow toe.

For high performance tights at a reasonable price, you can turn to Wolford, which has brought out the 15 Sandal at £12. Designed to be worn with open-toed shoes, these are made from double-ply Lycra which combines sheerness with strength.

The finish is matte and comes in four natural skin tones and black. Emotion is for those with pale skin. Cosmetic gives a natural finish, while Gobi gives a sun-kissed look. Honey is for those who are already tanned.

The signs for next winter are that leg adornment. Eighties-style, is back, with diamante-encrusted legs by Valentino, neon pink Lycra by Christian Lacroix and tattooed tights by the British design duo Clements Ribeiro.

But while the heatwave lasts, the rule is to keep legs simple but sophisticated. Give the impression that you have dared to bare with this season's secret weapon — the invisible pair of tights.

'Despite the arrival of summer, many are unable to prise themselves away from thick black tights'

to prise themselves away from the thick, black opaque tights which were so fashionable in the cold winters of the early Nineties. This season Dolce & Gabbana may have gone for a deathly white look and Helmut Lang for block colours in red and black, but neither look can be truly considered stylish when worn anywhere other than the catwalk.

Moving on from last winter's crocheted and spider-web styles, Jonathon Aston has created funky versions of skin-coloured legwear, bringing bare-toned fishnets into the mainstream and adding spice to his sheer tights with a shocking pink or turquoise seam and heel. Once regarded as outrageous, these now make acceptable office wear.

Legwear companies are also offering the option of hold-up sheer stockings — wonderfully cool in a heatwave, though the anxiety of your hold-ups falling down at an unexpected moment may outweigh their attractions.

Getting legs right this summer is more essential than ever. There is an abundance of

MAIN PICTURE: Black halter neck dress, £109 by Joseph, 23 Old Bond Street, W1. Natural tan pearl shiny tights, £3.50 by Marks & Spencer. Black crepe high heel mule, £195 by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1

CENTRE: Suedette punch-hole dress, £54 by Jigsaw, 126 New Bond Street, W1. Sandal 15 tights, £12 by Wolford. Cream platform sandal, £95 by Russell & Bromley

TOP RIGHT: Pink viscose jersey dress, £125 by Plein Sud at Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1. Sheer Lights Golden Glow tights, £3.50 by Pretty Polly. Rainbow wedge sandal, £54.99 by Ravel

Photographs by TIM WHITE
Stylist: Nicola Goldie
Hair and Make-up: Aimee Adams for Estee Lauder
Model: Karina Raymond, Models 1

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Alan Coren



Impulsive women with more cheek than scents leave men standing

What were all the perfumes of Arabia designed to do? Correct. They were designed to sweeten little hands. That they seemed to Lady Macbeth to have fallen at the olfactory hurdle of Duncan's blood was only because she had come off her trolley: her little hands, you may be sure, would have smelt perfectly sweet to anyone else.

They would have smelt, that is to say, feminine. Not female. Lady Macbeth, even as she distractedly smooched the Dunstons, would have given off the soft fragrance of roses, or lilies, or lavender, the scents of bowers and arbour, and the better class of tub. Vegetable aromas. Nothing animal. For perfume has ever been an accoutrement of romance, deliberately disguising life's meatier exudations, a cosmetic fib among the many, distancing sexual reality rather than confronting it. Perfume is the seasoning of courtly love: it is about seducing, even, but so early on in the process as to be virtually innocent, indeed innocently virtuous. It is not about instantly jumping on bones. The male organ it targets is the nose.

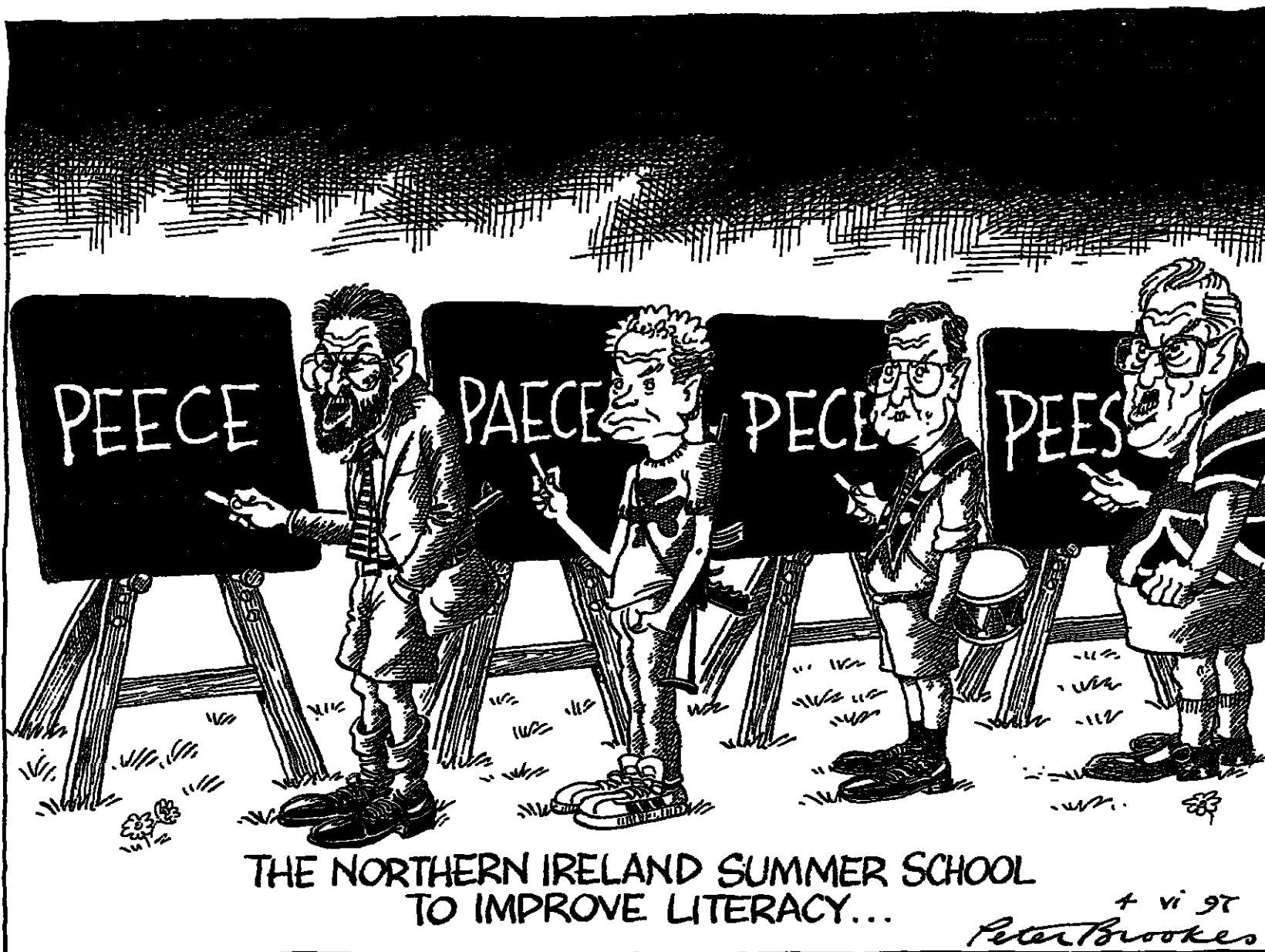
Or was, until last night. Last night, all that changed, and since it changed via nationwide television, then it doubtless changed for ever: because an image was implanted in us which, thanks to image-makers Ogilvy & Mather and the clients who appointed them, will henceforth be ineradicable. Not, mind, that the image presented itself fully; that, sadly, was part and parcel of its power, since by revealing neither part nor parcel, the advertisement encouraged the viewing imagination to engage itself even more graphically than graphics could have done.

Here's what happened: a fetching young woman walked into a life class where a group of artists was painting a male model. The woman was wearing a neat outfit, but the male model was not wearing anything at all. Since, however, we were not seeing him from the front, there was nothing to get her up about. Until it transpired that the young woman was wearing not only the neat outfit we could see, she was also wearing something we could not see. Indeed she was, quite literally, transpiring it: for it was a perfume, called Impulse, though we learnt this only after we had learnt that it was, after all, something to get her up about, since he was wearing exactly what the male model had apparently got.

Apparently, because we could not see him from the front, his front was obscured. It was an occluded front. That it was also a rising front we were able to elicit only from the reaction of the young woman in front of him: her eyebrows, such is the subtlety of the advertiser's art, rose in harmony. Followed by the slogan — you guessed? — "Men can't help acting on impulse".

A new message about perfume, then: but then again, much more than that. Impulse, it would appear, though it didn't quite, does things to men, wily-nilly. The male model could not help himself. The thing was beyond his control. Which means that last night's fleeting half-minute has done far more than merely dismantle in a trice the delicate daisy-chain of romance, leaving one solitary link between man's two chief protuberances: far more than rewrite forever the language of scent so that there will never again be any question at all as to why women sashay on or why men buy it for them: far more even than introduce a bizarre speculative element into any future mixed gathering, large or small. It has, above and beyond the call of all these messages, sent one into this imperfect world so ramified that one can only clutch at the bookshelves for support, and whimper.

Now, were I whatever the male equivalent is of a feminist, I might well grow furious at the message that there is out there an essence, one sniff of which will deprive a man of all control over his sexual actions; but as I am not, and as, for some, there may even be the odd social boon in all this, I shall hold my peace. Leaving it to occur to those with a homonymic bent that it might not be a bad move on President Clinton's part to ring his lawyers right this minute and invite them discreetly to discover whether Paula Jones was wearing perfume at the time.



In place of Stormont

Memo to Mr Blair: Ulster's leaders need not go to South Africa to learn reform — only to Belfast City Hall

Milner would have been aghast. Lugard would have cheered. Palmerston would have fallen off his chair. Politicians from the United Kingdom, mother of democracies, last week took their domestic quarrels to the Dark Continent for guidance. Palefaces from the Bogside and the Shankill, festooned in shanrocks, bowlers and orange sashes, sat attentive at the feet of those their forebears would have dismissed as barbarians.

Explaining the South African path to conflict resolution, Nelson Mandela told the Ulstermen to renounce their tribal ways and behave like Christians and democrats. Aha, cried the delighted visitors, how wise is this great personage. They returned to Belfast and duly resumed their tribal ways. But they did not wash the hand that had shaken that of Mandela.

Last week's visit by Ulster politicians to South Africa was a suitably daft preliminary to yesterday's reopening of the multiparty talks at Stormont. These are now a joke no less sick for being familiar. Senator George Mitchell flies in to act as compere. He peers through his "window of opportunity" and urges urgency. Sinn Féin/IRA plants a bomb, demands access to the talks and is duly refused. The Unionist factions squabble over procedure and one or more walks out. British ministers scale new heights of platitude and cliché. Absolutely nothing is achieved.

This has been going on not for 25 hours, 25 days or 25 weeks, but for 25 years. For 20 of those years I have visited every Secretary of State and heard him parrot the same briefing about time running out. Yesterday the once down-to-earth Mo Mowlam recited the briefing on radio, its verbatim phrases dropping from her lips and gasping to be put out of their misery: "Parties must realise the present urgency... listen to the vast, peace-loving majority... rebuild confidence after the events of the past weekend [ever thus]... meaningful and unequivocal ceasefire... settlement train leaving station..."

Tony Blair entered office last month with the same admirable intentions as all his predecessors. The presentation was superb. Mr Blair visited Ulster. He smiled. He told the Protestants there would be no Irish unity in his lifetime. He told the Republicans he was sorry for the Irish Famine and would order immediate "clarification" talks between

Sinn Féin/IRA and his officials (who surely need no clarification). He charmed everyone and offended everyone in traditional Anglo-Irish fashion.

Since then the IRA has tried to blow up an army unit and a loyalist gang has killed a policeman. Ms Mowlam duly cancelled clarification and asserted that there is "no question" of Sinn Féin attending Stormont talks. There is now talk of excluding some loyalist politicians and even banning some of their parties. Ms Mowlam has taken to Ulster's ancient régime like a duck to water.

The famous train leaving the station metaphor was one much favoured by Lord Prior in the mid-Eighties and more recently by John Major. The image is of an Orient Express furiously getting up steam, its passengers high on champagne and the prospect of ministerial office. Famous politicians come to see them off. Money is everywhere. Left on the platform are the leaders of Sinn Féin, tears of disappointment pouring down their faces. If only they had agreed to a ceasefire...

The metaphor is splendid, yet ludicrous. The train never moves. The signal is stuck at red. The reason is always the same. After 25 years of waiting for "the men of violence" to throw down their weapons, nobody can face leaving without them. The enemy has become one of the party. Participants such as John Hume and Ian Paisley have been on and off the train for a full quarter century. Talks about talks are their lifeblood. This is the longest-running show since the Congress of Vienna.

Mr Blair must know that the Stormont talks are a farrago. Mr Major was praised for his bravery in talking to the IRA and thus enticing them into a temporary ceasefire. It was possibly a gamble worth taking. But when the IRA predictably refused to "decommission" their weapons, when the Unionists

refused to talk to them as a result, and when both talks and ceasefire duly collapsed, British policy again ground to a halt. By granting the IRA de facto right of veto on progress, successive British Governments have granted violence a veto on democracy.

Sinn Féin/IRA revel in the leverage accorded them. Had the IRA handed over their weapons stockpiles two years ago, they would now be democratic nobodies, a minority within a minority at a Stormont assembly. The Unionists would have been in the ascendancy, with David Trimble as provincial Prime Minister sharing power (I believe briefly) with Sinn Féin's hated rivals, the SDLP. There would have been no united Ireland. For the IRA a century-old blood feud would have ended in defeat, though before long Stormont would again have collapsed.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, as Secretary of State, forestalled that. The talks process, with Sinn Féin/IRA always on the brink of a new ceasefire, acquired the secret of eternal life. The IRA Army Council returned to centre stage, making Senator Mitchell dance to its tune. The past two years have brought more electoral support to the IRA and their politics of partial exclusion than anything in two decades.

The only way forward is for the talks to stop. Nobody at Stormont has any incentive to seek a settlement on the present basis. Britain is giving £6,000 in subsidy each year to every family in Northern Ireland. The Province is a vast welfare dependency. Senior politicians, like British ministers, have jobs, salaries and status at risk. Stormont, the embodiment of all that is most rotten in Northern Irish history, is sitting waiting once again to polarise and wreck democratic accountability in the Province.

I cannot believe that Mr Blair is being taken in by talk of "another" IRA

ceasefire. Nor can I believe he really wants to revive a Stormont Assembly, proven at two attempts (under Sir Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher) to have failed as a model for devolved regional government. The IRA will never renounce violence to the satisfaction of militant Unionism. Yet they will be satisfied only by a constitution that the Unionists cannot accept.

The train must leave the station and for a destination determined by the British Government. The local parties may accept or amend, but not reject that destination. A new constitution must devolve power to counties and cities, where power-sharing already exists and where local communities can co-operate in running their own affairs away from the glare of Stormont. Much civil rights regulation would be needed. Limited functions such as security must remain with a direct-rule administration.

Last week, while the leaders of the nine principal parties were holding separate "apartheid" sessions in a South African hotel, their juniors in Belfast were enacting everything that the talks process has failed to achieve. Unionists and nationalists of all stripes were preparing to swear in the first nationalist Mayor of Belfast, Alban Maginness. At local government level, Northern Ireland's communities are willing to sit round tables, talk and co-operate. It is only the pestilential atmosphere of the "peace process" that holds them implacably apart. Power-sharing works, but never at Stormont.

Northern Ireland's leaders need not go to South Africa to learn political reform. Down the road to Belfast City Hall is far enough. Indeed, if South Africa has any lesson to teach divided societies, it is that they are best left to sort out their own differences without the intervention of conciliators, outside governments or the international peace industry. South Africa's internal settlement, made entirely on its own, remains history's best advertisement for ostracism.

This whole business is about local government. There is an alternative to the Stormont nonsense. It lies in devolving administration below the level of Northern Ireland as a whole. The sooner Mr Blair realises this and starts the train in this direction, the easier he, and Northern Ireland, will sleep at night.

US justice is still in the dock

Tim Hames says
McVeigh's trial was just for show

As Timothy McVeigh waits to see if a Denver jury will spare his life, American lawyers line up to argue that his conviction has saved the reputation of their profession. Legal commentators have rushed in front of television cameras to claim that all the sins associated with the trial of O.J. Simpson have disappeared with the decision of 12 good citizens.

They should be sued for malpractice. The McVeigh trial has proved little except that the jury remains out on American justice. The content of the two cases were so different as to make comparison absurd. In so far as any lessons can be drawn, they reinforce not repudiate those learnt in Los Angeles.

In substance, almost everything about the McVeigh and Simpson trials differed. McVeigh is an unknown drifter, Simpson a national celebrity. In McVeigh's case, the prosecution never succeeded in producing evidence that directly linked him to the scene of the crime. They could, however, prove that he had access to the means of murder and demonstrate, through his burning hatred of the federal Government, a powerful motive. In the Simpson situation, the scientific evidence at the scene of the crime (if accepted) was overwhelming, but a murder weapon was never discovered; even prosecutors conceded that the time available to commit the crime was tight, and the motive remains uncertain.

The O.J. trial consumed some 120 days, but required little more than four hours to produce an unexpected acquittal. The McVeigh affair absorbed only 25 days, but the jury deliberated for 23 hours — far longer than had been expected — before returning the verdict that the American public had all but demanded. Simpson's prosecutors decided not to seek the death penalty for fear that jurors would shy from a verdict that might send him to death row. In McVeigh's case there was no such calculation. President Clinton had all but promised that execution would be demanded and lethal injection is the most likely sentence.

The authorities took few chances in McVeigh's prosecution. They were determined both to secure a conviction and to ensure that a fair trial was presented. For that reason, McVeigh was first charged in the federal courts — not Oklahoma, where another trial will follow later — and accused of murdering only the eight government employees present in the Alfred P. Murrah Building when it was blown up, killing 168 people.

That allowed the trial to be moved to Denver. It also placed matters in the hands of an experienced Federal Judge, Richard Matsch, who decided that television cameras would be excluded and that defence claims of a wider conspiracy were irrelevant and therefore inadmissible. That was an absolutely vital judgment. Many would maintain that one man and a partial accomplice could not have masterminded such an elaborate act of terrorism. Even if further scrutiny did not exonerate McVeigh, it might have shed more light on the events of April 19, 1995. As it was, the defence was forced to operate on much narrower terrain. Although it was widely acknowledged that the FBI had made serious mistakes in dealing with the forensic evidence at the heart of this case, the defence team never exploited that incompetence.

All this is at complete odds with the Simpson trial. Had Judge Lance Ito followed the McVeigh formula then the racial dimension of the defence case would have been thrown out of court. The private prejudice of Detective Mark Furman would also have been discarded. As it was, those factors swiftly took centre stage. O.J. Simpson's expensive legal team could hire expert opinion that exploited the failings in forensic evidence to the full. Television would never have entered the equation. In short, the trial itself, not merely the circumstances, would have been entirely different.

Similarly, the drama in Denver might well have taken on a different character if the circumstances in California had been replicated. The whole process would certainly have been longer. Television would have permitted an outing to the many conspiracy theories that surround the bombing. The defence could have exploited undoubted holes in the prosecution. If money had been no object, then numerous professors could have been found to dispute the quality of evidence found in the aftermath of the explosion.

None of this is to suggest that Timothy McVeigh is an innocent man brought down by a determined legal establishment. The evidence against him, although circumstantial, was extremely powerful. But in many ways it was no better and possibly worse than that which faced O.J. Simpson. In both cases the rules of engagement and the resources available to the defendant were extremely significant aspects of the ultimate outcome.

The American judicial system has not been "redeemed" by this verdict. All that has been shown is that, in the right circumstances, a verdict can be obtained that chimes with mainstream opinion. Neither Washington nor the states can, or should, do much about the relative wealth of defendants. However, there is much that could be done to ensure that trials focus more firmly on the core evidence and less on the rules by which events proceed. The McVeigh verdict may legitimise complacency and defer long overdue reform.

Ace of clubs

AFTER ten years of neglect, there is hope for Home House, the former premises of the Courtauld Institute in Portman Square and the finest Robert Adam townhouse in London. Negotiations are at an advanced stage to turn the Grade I listed building into a private members' club, planned as a cross between the Garrick and the Groucho and offering full membership to both sexes.

Viscount Portman, who owns

the building as part of his £350 million property empire in central London, has apparently given his blessing to the idea and English Heritage is studying the proposal.

Masterminding the plan is the full-bodied Brian Clivaz, who nimbly slipped out of his job as manager of Simpson's-in-the-Strand recently to devote all his formidable energy to it.

Yesterday Clivaz refused to talk about his scheme, but multi-millionaire backers and famous names are said to be behind the project.

Trenchermen, cigar smokers and chess players will be welcomed among the lady members. Spies, too, are likely to make an appearance, for the club is planning to capitalise on one of building's more notorious former inhabitants: Anthony Blunt had a flat there on the top floor.

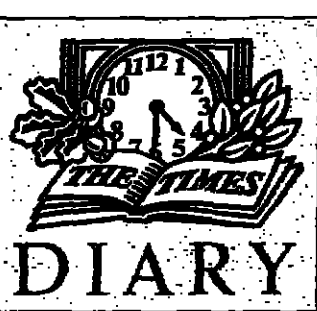
● A momentous decision has been taken at Clarence House, where Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother still reaches for her Sporting Life with the eagerness of a schoolgirl for her copy of Bunt. For the first time, she has sent one of her horses to be trained in France. Fireball, the four-year-old

gelding at François Doumen's yard near Chantilly, is said to be appreciating the cuisine.

Cook's tour

ROBIN COOK's visit to Rome yesterday proved to be an eye-opener: he had never before visited the Eternal City. Understandingly excited before his journey, Cook instructed his office to phone ahead and ask whether he could squeeze in a spot of sightseeing.

"Of course," replied embassy officials in Rome with the stunned



look of diners who had been slapped in their faces with a pizza. "We presumed that he must already have visited Rome."

So, before meeting the Prime Minister Romano Prodi and the Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, Cook was taken on a small tour with our Ambassador. He marvelled at the Colosseum and then stopped off at a restaurant on the Piazza Navona in front of Bernini's famous fountain. Looking sticky in the heat, he spurned the restaurant's famous turrone ice-cream dish and opted for a very new Labour aqua minerale.

Last word

FIFTY years after the publication of his book *The Last Days of Hitler*, Hugh Trevor-Roper, now Lord Dacre, has read the German reviews. The book came out in Brit-

ain in March, 1947, and by the winter of 1947-48 was in libraries in Germany set up by the British Occupation authorities.

According to library records and readers' comments just discovered among Foreign Office documents, the book was very popular with German readers. Most were deeply appreciative of a non-German account of the war, though some complained that if the British knew Hitler was so awful, why did they do so little to stop him earlier on? A few took Trevor-Roper to task for his high style, though as he writes in the latest *Saturday Review*: "After fifty years, I can digest these criticisms. But vanity (a more lasting emotion) still enables me to relish the dewdrops, I am happy that even at such a time so many German readers found the book to be 'objective', 'fair', and undistorted by hate: in other words as I intended it to be, history, not propaganda."

A new leaf

STRETCHERS and sal volatile are in chatters for the elderly audience of *Pebble Mill at One*, with news that their host, the clean-living Alan Titchmarsh, has written a sex and shrubbery novel. Published next year, it will be his first novel, and will be called *Mr Macgregor*.



Titchmarsh: growth industry

Titchmarsh also presents *Gardeners' World* and is said to have the sort of looks to drive women into the potting shed with a cold compress.

His book will be a satire in which a daytime television gardening programme suffering from plummeting ratings hires the dashing Rob Macgregor. He saves the show and becomes a housewife's sex symbol, then begins a steamy affair with a newsreader until his longstanding girlfriend finds out. Titchmarsh's agent describes the book as a "very sexy, very spicy number".

P.H.S



Saved: an Adam gem



BLUNT INSTRUMENTS

For Labour, saving on debate now must mean paying later

What are Parliaments for? The demand for a parliament in Scotland springs from the widespread sense that Scotland is currently governed, through the Scottish Office, with insufficient democratic scrutiny and inadequate constitutional safeguards. There is, then, a certain irony in the paving legislation for the Scottish parliament, and the Welsh assembly, being hurried through the House of Commons with a procedural device which curtails scrutiny and impedes the insertion of safeguards. Labour's decision to guillotine debate on its Referendum Bill may have precedents and add to the impression of dynamism; but on this issue the Government has hit highly disputed ground and is running away from the tough questions.

The Government, with more than 50 per cent of Scotland's MPs and a clear commitment to change, is understandably impatient to legislate for devolution. It is even more understandably disinclined to take lectures in constitutional proprieties from a party with no MPs in Scotland or Wales and which has itself used the guillotine to slice Parliament's powers. That does not, however, mean this Government can proceed as it pleases. Bills which change the shape of the constitution are of a different order to Bills which alter class sizes.

The Government argues that the Referendum Bill is not a major piece of constitutional legislation, simply a way of creating a device to test opinion. The Government also believes that many of the amendments tabled to its short Bill are simply vexatious, or snares designed to allow filibustering. This is true but only partly true.

But establishing a precedent for the use of a pre-legislative referendum — especially, as is the case in Scotland, one with two questions — is hardly a minor matter. The passage of the Referendum Bill will alter the constitution and deserves proper scrutiny.

Many of the questions that are now being asked of the Government relate specifically to the referendum and are not premature auditions of arguments on devolution.

It is legitimate to debate why only those resident in Scotland and Wales should vote when the entire kingdom will be affected by the result. It is not self-evident why Scotland and Wales should have different questions or why Scots should be asked to vote simultaneously on the principle of a parliament and then whether that parliament should have tax-varying powers. Finally, Parliament might ask why, when even the meanest golf club requires more than a mere majority to change its constitution, the United Kingdom can be recast by a simple majority of a tiny minority?

Labour can use its majority to ensure that the Commons does not have the chance to debate these matters in full. But the Lords should not feel constrained meekly to acquiesce. The precedent for aristocrats submitting to guillotines is not happy. If Labour wants its legislation to run on time then the Lords have every right to insist the Government give a commitment that the substantive legislation on devolution is debated in full on the floor of the Commons.

The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, has already, ominously, said that the right result in the referendum would give the Government the "moral authority to speed the passage of devolution". He is wrong. If the Referendum Bill is being sped through Parliament now on the basis that it is a procedural matter, then adequate time must be made available later for the substantive arguments. Victory in the referendum will only give the Government the authority to introduce a Bill, not smuggle it past scrutiny. By deploying the guillotine now, the case for quick passage of the Devolution Bill has become a casualty.

RIGHTING READING

British children could and should be more literate

Standards of literacy in this country are shockingly low. Only half of all 11-year-olds reach the level that virtually all should be able to achieve. Without the basic ability to read and write, children of that age cannot cope with secondary school and may then be blighted for life.

So it is encouraging that the Government is concentrating so hard on the three Rs — and particularly on remedial education for the long tail of underachievers in our school system. Yesterday Stephen Byers, Minister for Standards, launched a pilot scheme of literacy summer schools for those who are a couple of years behind their reading age at 11. Pupils will have intensive tuition with some individual attention and a healthy injection of fun alongside the work.

For many children who are lagging at this age, such summer camps could make the difference between an easy and a difficult transition to secondary school. The move from a small primary school to a huge secondary can be traumatic enough without the alienation of being unable to follow the lessons properly. Too many children drop out at this stage and turn to truancy and crime. A network of summer schools could help to motivate many underachievers. But there is still the problem of the bottom 20 per cent who are too far behind to catch up with just two weeks of intensive help. Their problems need to be addressed far earlier in their school careers.

At seven, the disparity between the highest and lowest achievers is far smaller than at 11. In the seven-year-old tests, only 20 per cent of pupils fail to achieve the results expected for their age. This percentage doubles by the end of primary school.

In New Zealand, a concentration on lit-

eracy has enabled 80 per cent of children to read well through normal teaching. A further 15 per cent catch up after an intensive Reading Recovery programme starting at six. Only 5 per cent still have reading problems by the end of primary school.

Britain needs to improve both the general teaching of literacy and the remedial effort put into those who fall behind. Mr Blunkett's emphasis on phonics, in which children are taught the relationship between letters and sounds, and his advocacy of a "literacy hour" in school each day, should help to improve the skills of the majority. Then the minority needs to be addressed.

First, teachers need to understand why children fail to learn to read. Although there is some correlation between test results and deprivation, there is still a huge variation between schools with a similar social intake. So, for instance, primary schools with the most deprived pupils range from a 70 per cent success rate at 11-year-old English tests to 0 per cent. Poverty and lack of parental support have become alibis behind which ineffective teachers and schools learn to hide. But with good teaching, most children from any social background can succeed.

As well as being offered remedial help, underachievers could benefit from a less rigid obsession with chronological age. Tony Blair has already suggested that able children should be accelerated through school. The converse should be allowed for those who need more time to grasp the basics. In many continental countries, children who fall behind are expected to repeat a year. If this were done here at the age of seven, more children would leave primary school with the critical skills necessary to cope with the next stage of their life.

ROME IS NOT DONE IN A DAY

But a good way to start is at ease with a tartufo

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, met his Italian counterpart, Lamberto Dini, in Rome yesterday. They discussed the high diplomacy of the European Union. But before their meeting, Mr Cook enjoyed the even higher experience of his first visit to Rome. He sat in Tre Scalinie, the old pastry shop, home of the tartufo Nerone (the chocolate ice-cream shaped like the breast of an Amazonian Venus), watching the crowds milling around the Piazza Navona with its baroque fountains and stalls of trinkets.

All roads do not lead to Rome, except metaphorically. But every road in Rome leads to eternity. The Piazza Navona is its peculiar shape and size because it is built above Domitian's stadium, which could accommodate 30,000 spectators. Almost as many still flock there in June. And 19 centuries ago satirists taunted Domitian for his taste for ice-cream, suggesting that that sabre-toothed Emperor also had a sweet tooth.

Mr Cook's first entry into Rome was a better way to start than the 30-minute tour of the Vatican or the Disneyified Esperanza Romana. Others might have chosen to enter through the Forum and up the Palatine for an emperor's-eye-view of the city. Edward Gibbon found the project for his life's work, musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the bare-footed friars were singing vespers in the Temple of Jupiter.

However one enters, a first meeting with Rome is a climax. Or sometimes an anticlimax. For indeed Rome was not built in a day: it just looks like it. Andy Warhol said

that Rome is an example of what happens when the buildings in a city last too long. Rome reminded James Joyce of a man who lives by exhibiting to travellers the corpse of his grandmother. On his first visit, Dickens saw Rome as an inferior version of London, with a building site around one big dome. And in *Inside Mr Enderby*, the irascible middle-aged poet who was a projection of the author, Anthony Burgess, said Rome was a vastly overrated city: "It trades on belief just as Stratford trades on Shakespeare."

A commoner reaction to the first Roman holiday is that of Horace catching sight of his prospects up the Appian Way. Or of Henry James, who spent his first day reeling and moaning through the streets in a fever of enjoyment. "I traversed almost the whole of Rome and got a glimpse of everything — the Forum, the Coliseum (stupendissim!), the Pantheon, the Capitol, St Peter's, the Column of Trajan, the Castle of St Angelo — all the piazzas and ruins and monuments."

Horace, a man for a tartufo, would have been a less exhausting companion. The Eternal City is not going to disappear. So there is enough there to last a lifetime. A sound recipe for good tourism anywhere is to say agree that when in Rome one should do as the Romans do. Reeling and rushing around trying to see it all on the first day is a programme for bad temper and headache. But the man who goes to Rome as a tourist can return as a lover. Yesterday, Mr Cook may have started a life long romance of discovery, and not just of EU monetary policy.

Effects on euro of French election

From the Chairman of the Labour Euro Safeguards Campaign

Sir, Surely, after the French elections, the "wait and see" policy of both the present Government and its predecessor on the question of Britain joining the single currency should now be abandoned.

The Maastricht treaty convergence criteria and the efforts made to meet them have not only, as Anatole Kaletsky points out today, helped to inflame and maintain unacceptably high levels of unemployment on the two architect nations, France and Germany (see also leading article, "Bastille Day"), but have led to the fuelling and fiddling of national financial accounts in both countries, and in Belgium and Italy as well, in a truly disgraceful way.

Now, as Sunday's massive rejection of France's pro-single currency Government has shown, it is also proving to be a potent source of political instability. All these adverse consequences have occurred in the run-up to a single currency. Once achieved, a single currency would make things worse. Not only would deflation be institutionalised in Western Europe, but its beneficial effects would be enhanced by the severe fiscal penalties and fines to be imposed on defaulting nations, by the stability pact which will come into force the moment the single currency is adopted.

The pursuit of folly over so long a period and in the face of such deleterious effects needs some explaining. But we know the answer. The single currency is not about the economy, it is about politics, and above all the massive enterprise which, for their different reasons, Chancellor Kohl, President Mitterrand and the Commission President Delors launched nearly a decade ago, to create a European state.

A single currency does indeed make such a state inevitable. And it is precisely because our people do believe in self-government that we must not and will not join.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SHORE
(Labour MP, 1964-97,
c/o House of Commons,
June 3.

Silver lining

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, The result of the French election is not all bad news. If French Socialists can romp back to power after sustaining a crushing defeat four years ago, which left them with only one fifth of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies, why shouldn't the Conservatives be able to achieve the same feat at our next general election?

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
135 Hankinson Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
June 2.

Advisers at No 10

From the Minister without Portfolio

Sir, I am grateful to Sir Brian Barden (letter, June 3) for putting into its proper context Sue Cameron's argument over the meetings which I chair each morning in the Cabinet Office ("Mandelson and the new mandarins", May 30).

Ms Cameron was concerned that the presence of Alastair Campbell, Jonathan Powell and special advisers working for John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook represented an eclipsing of the politically neutral Civil Service. Even if this were so (which it is not) she failed to mention that these meetings are also attended by, and receive active contribution not only from Alex Allan, the Principal Private Secretary at 10 Downing Street, but also an official from my office, a representative of the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, and Alastair Campbell's deputy, a career civil servant.

So in personnel terms they are really little different from the meetings chaired by Michael Heseltine, though they are, thankfully, more effective and decisive.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall, SW1,
June 3.

Drivers' mobile phones

From Mr Alan Wells

Sir, Concern about drivers' use of mobile phones is reasonable and justified (report and leading article, May 1; reports, May 20, 21); but the police, who are supportive of these concerns and also responsible for monitoring driving performance, should set an example by putting their own house in order.

Too often one sees in busy urban areas the driver of a police patrol car using a hand-held radio. To do so when responding to an emergency using blue lights and siren must surely increase the danger to themselves and other road users. The consequences can be fatal.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN WELLS,
5 York Road, Ashford, Kent,
May 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Proper role for a teaching council

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, I would agree wholeheartedly with Dr Martin Stephen that "the Government's promise of a General Teaching Council must mean the creation of a professional organisation to control teaching and to have some say on standards in the profession" ("Who respects teachers?", Education, May 30), but I would take issue with his comparison with the British Medical Association.

The body within the medical profession that a General Teaching Council should be compared with is the General Medical Council, not the BMA. The one thing that it should not be is some kind of new super trade union for teachers, or the reincarnation of the Burnham committees: it needs to have entirely different functions from those quite properly exercised by the existing teacher trade unions.

Among the duties of a General Teaching Council would be:

- 1 To keep under review the standards of entry to the teaching profession;
- 2 To consider matters relating to the supply of teachers, other than remuneration or conditions of service, and to make recommendations on these to the Secretary of State;
- 3 To recommend to the Secretary of State criteria for accreditation of institutions for teacher training;
- 4 To establish and keep a register of qualified persons suitable as teachers.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY WOODHOUSE,
Gypsy Furlong,
Lockenridge,
Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire,
May 30.

Abolition of worship in schools

From Mr L. L. Blake

Sir, You report (May 30) that "Head teachers promised yesterday to press for the abolition of daily prayers because schools feel it is hypocritical and impractical to enforce worship." On your Education page on the same day Martin Stephen writes an article under the headline, "Who respects teachers?"

Do not teachers see the connection? Unless children are encouraged to engage in a collective act of worship that embraces the civilised, fundamentally Christian principles of their society, it is certain that children will show little respect for anything else, including their teachers.

Yours truly,
L. L. BLAKE,
271 Lonsdale Road, SW13,
May 30.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, The overwhelming vote by the Association of Head Teachers against the legal imposition of collective worship on schools is a significant step in the long struggle against this profoundly anti-educational practice.

Free thinkers have opposed it from the earliest days of state education — indeed the Secularist movement arose from the original campaign for secular education a century and a half ago. It also used to be opposed by political organisations, including the Labour Party, but Labour governments have hesitated to do anything about it.

However, now that so many teachers, inspectors, governors, administrators, educationists and politicians agree that virtually compulsory religious worship, of whatever denomination, has no place in publicly-funded schools used by children from various religious and non-religious backgrounds, may we hope that the new Labour Government, with its overwhelming parliamentary majority, including a large intake of new and young Members, will at last repeal this law and enable our schools to develop genuinely educational

Oxford's Bacon

From the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir, No doubt there are two views of the Pembroke Junior Common Room's decision to sell its Bacon, Mr P. R. Millett's letter (May 24), however, contains inaccuracies and I feel obliged to respond.

In addition to the Bacon, which was on loan to the Ashmolean, the JCR collection also included a number of excellent examples of paintings by a remarkable generation of post-1945 English artists. These were displayed in a modest room reserved for that purpose in the college itself. Those not being exhibited were kept in a specially designated area which, while far from perfect, was certainly neither neglected nor forgotten.

Some of the paintings from both groups were exhibited, together with paintings that belong to the college, at Eighth Week last year. That was a joint effort between the Senior and the Junior Common Rooms.

At no time has the SCR suggested the collection belonged to the college or should be sold for the benefit of the college's endowment. Certainly in the four years since I have been Master no one has queried the ownership being in the JCR, and indeed the fellow responsible for the college's art collection, together with the law fellows, has worked closely with the JCR as they have thought through the future of their collection.

Faithfully yours,
ROBERT STEVENS, Master,
Pembroke College, Oxford.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Long and short of a Latin epigram

From Mr Hubert Picarda, QC

Sir, Philip Howard should not fret over his Latin hawler ("Sorry I played you false . . .", May 31).

The great Charterhouse classics master and Loeb editor, Thomas Ethelbert Page, CH, DLitt, blundered almost as badly. In his Latin elegiac celebrating the 150th anniversary of *The Times* on January 1, 1935, he heinously treated the final syllable of *quinquaginta* as short (though I believe *seaginta* occurs thus, once, in Martial).

Hubert Watson, a Balliol man, wrote to the Editor: "Indignor quinquaginta bonus dormivi Homerus".

Indignor offendit Pagina, tunc stupor Quinquaginta metri causa si scribere fas est.

Omnia didicisti quae docui pueri. "It gives me sore when Homer roars." But when Page blunders, O ye gods! If *quinquaginta* is really short.

Let boys unlearn the rules he taught. The Editor's neat reply, declining publication "with compliments and regrets", at least avoided a trisyllabic ending to the pentameter: "Ne coram populo mercedem oblige."

Offendit quomvis Pagina, parce seni. Of school us' faults let not the world be told. If Page has blundered, reader, spare the old.

According to Watson, in *Jabberwocky* etc (*More English Rhymes with Latin Renderings*) (1937), Page, then well into his eighties, "was not a little upset when he realised the mistake he had made".

Page, incidentally, learnt to verify at Shrewsbury, at the feet of the great Benjamin Hall Kennedy of *Latin Primer* (and *Gender Rhymes*) fame.

Yours faithfully,
HUBERT PICARDA,
3 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
May 31.

From Mr John Wilson

Sir, It is as handsome of Philip Howard to admit to a false quantity as it is unsurprising that the Cambridge judges made no award this year for the composition of a Latin epigram (report, May 23).

Cum brevia ipse Howard nescit distinguere longis.
Scribere non miror recte non posse minores.

When Howard himself cannot distinguish short from long, I'm not surprised a lot of lesser men go wrong.

I am, etc,
JOHN WILSON,
University of Oxford,
Department of Educational Studies,
15 Norham Gardens, Oxford.

From Mr Nicholas Lane

Sir, As a past winner of the Sir William Browne Medal, might I suggest there is a simpler reason why no entries of the required standard were submitted to the Cambridge judges this year.

Browne Medals, unlike other prizes for verse composition, have no cash incentive. Betty Boothroyd, this year's chosen theme, would, I am sure, be relieved to know that at Cambridge, at least, there is no "cash for epigrams".

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS LANE,
37 Burlington Road, W4,
May 23.

Ban on 'Crash'

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Another example of the over-ruling of the film censor by a local authority (letter from Judge McHale, May 26) was the 1975 decision of the Greater London Council to allow exhibition to London adults of *More about the language of love*, a sex-education film of general interest.

What happened next was that the Director of Public Prosecutions, disregarding the council's certificate, brought a prosecution for obscenity at common law.

As I remember, it was emphatically not a film where the actors adopted the expedient mentioned by Judge McHale of keeping their backs to the camera.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
5 Old Nursery View,
Kennington, Oxford,
May 27.

From Mr A. E. Brewer

Sir, I must be older than Judge McHale because I recall that, in the 1930s, the Americans sent over a film called *Damaged Lives*.

The British Board of Film Censors refused it an exhibition licence, but Essex County Council licensed the film and I saw it at the Hippodrome, Ilford.

It was a fairly ordinary tale of a family disrupted when the husband caught syphilis; but local doctors (I think from King George's Hospital) seized the moment and, after the film, gave a lecture on venereal disease, illustrated with horribly explicit coloured slides. There were nurses on duty to deal with those overcome by the gory details.

Altogether a fun evening — but I imagine that no member of that audience ever forgot it.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BREWER,
154 Evelyn Avenue,
Ruislip, Middlesex,
May 28.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

His Excellency Mr. Tedenjov Subbatar was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from Mongolia to the Court of St James's. Mrs. Dushan Ovchinnikov was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Cotes (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present. General Sir Alexander Hargreaves was received by the Queen upon his appointment as Adjutant General.

Mr. Justice Eady was received by the Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

Mrs Janet Anderson MP (Vice-Chairman of the House of Commons) was received in audience by the Queen and presented an address from the House of Commons to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Rt Hon Anthony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of the Queen this evening. Her Majesty, the Duke of Edinburgh, Master, this morning attended the Annual Court Meeting, Church Service and Luncheon at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.

His Royal Highness, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening gave a Reception at Buckingham Palace and later attended a Dinner at St James's Palace.

The Lady Elinor has succeeded the Hon. Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty. Her Majesty, the Duke of York, Elder Brother, this morning attended the

Annual Court Meeting, Church Service and Luncheon at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 3: The Prince Edward, Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace followed by a World Fellowship Dinner at St James's Palace.

June 3: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, this morning visited the 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) at Cawdor Barracks, near Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 3: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at the Reception at the Royal Air Force Club given to mark the Club's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance. ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 3: The Prince of Wales, President, this evening attended a Dinner in connection with the Prince's Trust's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this evening opened the Biennial Interior Design Exhibition at a Gala Presentation in aid of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People at 1 Cambridge Circus, Regent's Park, London NW1.

YORK HOUSE
June 3: The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, this morning opened the new regional headquarters of Halliburton Brown and Root, Hill Park, Springfield Drive, Leatherhead, and was received by Mr Gordon Lee-Steele (Vice Lord, Lieutenant of Surrey).

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Reception at the Health Unit, West Park Hospital, Horley Lane, Epsom, Surrey.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for June was won with bond number 32850870. The winner lives in Surrey, and has a bond holding of £20,000.

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 04ET 26594, winner has a holding of £12,500 and comes from Hereford and Worcester; 04WV 085076, £234, Perthshire and Kinross; 04TL 024763, £20,000, Ealing, West London; 30GV 292121, £5528, Hampshire; 43NW 045764, £19,755, Gloucestershire; £50,000: 92ZW 12346, £12,000, Staffordshire; 40NW 958580, £20,000, Nottinghamshire; 30QF 089276, £20,000, East Sussex; 81BL 148977, £11,270, Northamptonshire; 55HB 397335, £8,125, Wiltshire; 17PW 327489, £3,850, Camden, north London; 66AN 331877, £1,000, Suffolk; 6285 057603, £10,000, Islington, north London; £25,000: 65LK 348024, £20,000, Lewisham, south London; 67BB 292935, £17,000, City of Westminster; 43KP 379546, £20,000, Overseas: ISNP 746713, £20,000, West Glamorgan; 44HP 542071, £20,000, Norfolk; 55HW 023441, £10,000, Surrey; 43VN 204303, £10,000, Devon; 30JP 15011, £20,000, Cheshire; 18VW 853196, £10,000, Overseas: 28VW 226869, £10,000, Middlesex; 76BN 309840, £10,000, Berkshire; 30MS 501225, £8,000, Tyne & Wear; 48VW 674088, £10,000, Gloucestershire; 50TK 397003, £11,450, Kent; 48LP 359226, £20,000, Berkshire; 48RF 402540, £7,615, Hertfordshire; 23KP 510009, £20,000, Northamptonshire; 44CZ 067382, £20,000, Merseyside;

Westminster School

The Challenge: the following have been selected to Queen's

M Kerimol (Westminster Under School); M Bakes (Westminster Under School); M M Williams (Westminster Under School); E E Newton (Westminster Under School); A H D Brenchley (The Mall School); N T S Pinnor (Westminster Under School); A J J Waddingham (Gayhurst School); E A J Waddingham (Gayhurst School).

The following have been awarded Honorary Scholarships: P L C George (North Bridge House School); C M Kenwick (North Bridge House School).

The Richard Edlin Mathematics Bursary has been awarded to N D Bursary (Westminster Under School).

sixth form awards: one-year award (North London Collegiate School) funded by the Bernard Sunley Foundation; one-year award (Ravenshoe Foundation) funded by the Emmott Foundation; Nisha Mahan (Harrow School for Girls); Robert Marsh (Dulwich College) funded by the Emmott Foundation; and the Emmott Foundation.

Clifford Heath Memorial Foundation; Emily Means (City of London School); Bernard Sunley Foundation; Nisha Mahan (Harrow School for Girls); Robert Marsh (Dulwich College) funded by the Emmott Foundation; and the Emmott Foundation.

Made awards are as follows: scholarship M D O Brown (Westminster Under School); A J Campbell (North Bridge House School); exhibitions - J A Church (Westminster Cathedral Choir School); C J Knaggs (Trevor Robbery Primary School); A J Knaggs (Westminster Under School); A Sakal (Holmwood School); A J Knaggs (Westminster Under School).

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School

Solemn Sung Mass, to mark the retirement of Mr Anthony Pellegrini, Headmaster of The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School since 1976, will be held in Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday, June 18, at 7.00pm. All former pupils, parents and friends of the School are invited to attend.

Horris Hill v Arabs

On Sunday June 29, at Horris Hill School, Newbury, E. H. Stow's XI, to mark the 50th Anniversary of this fixture. All old boys, Arabs, members and friends of the school are welcome to attend. Play starts at 11.30am.

Field Marshal Sir James Cassels

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Field Marshal Sir James Cassels, GCB, KBE, DSO, will be held in the Garrison Chapel, Fort George, Inverness-shire, on Sunday, July 13, 1997. Members of the Regiment and friends wishing to attend the service are asked to inform the Secretary, Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association, Cameron Barracks, Inverness, IV2 3XD by not later than June 16.



The Duke of Edinburgh, Master of Trinity House, and the Duke of York, an Elder Brother, on their way to the lighthouse authority's annual church service at Tower Hill, London, yesterday

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will dine with the Garter Knights at Spencer House at 7.30. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent will also attend.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Field Marshal, will inspect the Royal Pensioners at the Founder's Day Parade, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, at 10.15.

The Princess Royal, as Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Signals, will visit 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) at Avington Barracks, Colerne, near Chippenham, Wiltshire, at 10.00, and will visit Churchward Park, Swindon at 2.40.

Princess Margaret will open the refurbished Foyer Building in Alexander Road, Swansea, at 12.00, will visit the Grand Theatre and launch a programme of events to mark its centenary at 12.30, will visit the Llewellyn Arms Hotel, Leonard Road, Neath, West Glamorgan, at 2.40.

The Duke of Kent will unveil statues of Field Marshal Montgomery and a Second World War soldier, at the D-Day Museum, Southsea, Portsmouth, at 11.45.

Birthdays today

General Sir Cecil Blacker, 81; Mr Bob Champion, jockey and trainer; 49; Air Vice-Marshal G.A. Chesworth, Lord-Lieutenant of Morayshire; 67; Sir Christopher Cockerell, FRS, hovercraft inventor; 87; Vice-Admiral Sir Toby Frere, 80; Rear-Admiral Sir Paul Greening, former Master of HM's Household; 69; Mr A.H.C. Greenwood, former deputy chairman, British Aerospace; 80; the Earl of Halsbury, FRS, 89.

Miss Andrea Jaeger, tennis player; 32; Vice-Admiral Sir John Lee, 74; Mr J.D.R. Lyon, former chief executive, Rexam; 61; Mr Geoffrey Palmer, actor; 70; Sir John Sparrow, company director; 64; Professor J.C. West, former Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University; 75; Sir David Yardley, former chairman, Commission for Local Administration in England; 66.

Legal appointment

Mr Peter Milwyn Evans to be a District Judge on the Wales & Chester Circuit.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Gilpin, writer, Scaleby Castle, near Carlisle, 1724-1820. George III, reigned 1760-1820. London, 1738: Stephen Finster, songwriter, Pittsburgh, 1826; Baron Carl Mannerheim, general, President of Finland 1944-46, Askainen, 1867; Rosalind Russell, actress, Connecticut, 1911.

DEATHS: William Juxon, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1660-63. London, 1663: Giovanni Casanova, ecclesiastic, soldier and diplomat, Duchov, Czechoslovakia, 1748; Marguerite Gardiner, Countess of Blessington, novelist, Paris, 1849; F.R. Spofforth, cricketer, 'the demon bowler', Dinton Hill Lodge, Surrey, 1926; William II, German Emperor 1888-1918. Doorn, The Netherlands, 1911; Serge Koussévitch, conductor, Boston, Massachusetts, 1951; Dorothy Gish, stage and film actress, Rapallo, Italy, 1968; György Lukács, philosopher, 1971.

The first Trooping the Colour ceremony took place on Horse Guards Parade, London, 1805. The Reform Bill was passed, 1832. Rome was liberated by the Allies, 1944.

Tonga, or the Friendly Islands, became independent, 1970.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr C.J. Atkin and Miss S.L. Dowling

The engagement is announced between Chris, youngest son of the late Mr William Atkin and of Mrs Atkin, of Chaddington, Oxfordshire, and Siobhan, younger daughter of the late Dr St John Dowling and of Mrs Dowling, of Perry Green, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.A. Bracey-Gibson and Miss A. Contomichalos

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs John Bracey-Gibson, of Green Bedwyn, Wiltshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr Gerassimos Contomichalos and the late Mrs Sophia Contomichalos, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr R.M. Browning and Miss S.E. Chadwick

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Browning, of Hydra, Greece, and Sophia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Chadwick, of Clifton, York.

Mr T.M. Chapman and Miss K. Partridge

The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Chapman, of Ribchester, Lancashire, and Kim, elder daughter of Mr John Partridge and the late Mrs John Partridge, of Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Mr J.S.S. Hobbs and Miss A.A. Harden

The engagement is announced between Julian Hobbs, of London, and Alyson Harden, of Glasgow and London.

Mr S.H. Craven and Miss D.W. Gonella

The engagement is announced between Seton, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dominic Craven, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, and Diane, younger daughter of the late Mr Charles Gonella and of Mrs Gonella, of Peckham, London.

Mr S.A. Lovell and Miss A.V. Routledge

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Lovell, of St Lucia, West Indies, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr Gerassimos Contomichalos and the late Mrs Sophia Contomichalos, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr J.H. Harris and Miss S.A. Tyler

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 24, at the Church of St John the Divine, Cwmbach, Leicestershire, of Mr and Mrs Harris, only son of Mr and Mrs Harry Harris, of East Preston, West Sussex, and Miss Sarah Ann Tyler, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Tyler, of Llanfarned, Powys. Canon Alan Pearey and the Rev John Tyler officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by her sister, Miss Mary Tyler, Isabel Holton and Virginia Cordy-Redden. Dr John Paddy was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in the Caribbean.

Marriage

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 24, at the Church of St John the Divine, Cwmbach, Leicestershire, of Mr and Mrs Harris, only son of Mr and Mrs Harry Harris, of East Preston, West Sussex, and Miss Sarah Ann Tyler, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Tyler, of Llanfarned, Powys. Canon Alan Pearey and the Rev John Tyler officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by her sister, Miss Mary Tyler, Isabel Holton and Virginia Cordy-Redden. Dr John Paddy was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in the Caribbean.

Dinners

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Mr Ian Caldwell, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Baroness Gardner of Parks also spoke. Among other

guests were Mr and Mrs Lady Chatterley, Sir Neville Purvis, the Surgeon, the Chief Executive of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Chief Executive of the Cavers National Association, the Chief Executive of the British Veterinary Association, the Head of Inspection and Enforcement of the Veterinary Agency, the Director General of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, Mr Kevin Kelly, Mr Norman Usher, Mr Gavin K. Bell, Ms Imelda McLoughlin and Mr Ian Murray.

European-Atlantic Group
Mr Julius Nyerere was the speaker at a dinner discussion of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the Earl of Erroll's Hotel. Lord David presided. Mr Nick Hare and Sir Peter Marshall also spoke.

Service dinner
The Rifle Brigade
Brigadier C.J. Mc Harrison presided at a dinner of the Rifle Brigade Club held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BIRTHS

BAILEY - On May 28th 1997, to Lara (née Ode) Bailey, a son, Oliver Angus Eastman.

BARNHAM - On 21st May, to Clara (née Tarbush) and Edward, a daughter, Helena Jane, a sister for Emily and George.

DULIEU - Katie Scarlett, beautiful daughter of Gary and Debbie, born Saturday 7th May 1997 at 1.35pm.

GAMBLE - On May 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Christine (née Hamilton) and John, a son, Henry Samuel Fawcett.

GOMFREY - On 2nd June 1997, to Fiona (née Lister) and Peter, a son, Harry George Robert, a brother for Chris, Thomas, Sarah and Katie.

MOORE - On June 2nd 1997, to Heather (née McCann) and David, a daughter, Leonora Olivia Mary.

MILLER - On May 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Mangan) and David, a daughter, Isabelle.

MISHINURA - On May 31st at the Hospital of St John & St Elizabeth, to Al and Karen's lovely son, Yo, 3.4 kg at 4.14am.

ROBERTS - On 2nd June 1997 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Camilla (née Henderson) and Andrew, a son, Henry David.

RUSHFORD - On May 8th, to Sharon (née Pugh) and Kevin, a son, brother for Tom and Harry.

SARANTINOS - On May 31st at the Hospital of St John & St Elizabeth, to Sofia and Violetta, a beautiful son, Constantine, a brother for Nicholas and George.

SHAW - On May 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Sally (née Abraham) and Tony, a son, brother for Tom and Harry.

STRONG - On May 31st 1997, to Sam (née Wilson) and Lucy, a son, brother for Tom and Harry.

SYMONDS - On May 30th, to Rebecca (née Jones) and Tim, a daughter, Lucy Rose, a sister for Anna and Matthew.

THOMAS - On 2nd June 1997, to Rebecca (née Jones) and Richard, a daughter, Matilda Amelia Beatrice, a sister for Sophie.

WILLIAMS-ELLI - On 1st June, to Serena and David, a son.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HAGE - John Hage very much regrets he is unable to write individually to thank all those who so kindly wrote sending their love and sympathy on Rosemary's death. Their letters have given him great comfort and support.

DEATHS

BAILEY - Dr. Ian Severn died after a short illness at 1.15pm on May 31st 1997. He was 62 years old and was greatly loved and will be missed by his family and friends. Enquiries 01454 6506.

BARNES - Irene (née Sanderson) died on May 31st 1997, in her 96th year, in her home, 15, Mayfield, after a long illness. She was a devoted mother and wife. Enquiries 01454 6506.

BATHURST - Sophie Mary Elizabeth died on May 31st 1997, in her 96th year, in her home, 15, Mayfield, after a long illness. She was a devoted mother and wife. Enquiries 01454 6506.

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CARTER - Peacefully in her sleep on June 2nd aged 81, Phyllis, beloved wife of Eric, mother of Julie and Adrian and greatly loved and will be missed by his family and friends. Enquiries 01454 6506.

CHAPPELL - On May 31st 1997, in her 96th year, in her home, 15, Mayfield, after a long illness. She was a devoted mother and wife. Enquiries 01454 6506.

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HUGH-JONES - Edward Maurice, Fellow of Keele College, Professor of Economics, died on May 31st 1997, in his 81st year, in his home, 15, Mayfield, after a long illness. He was a devoted father and husband. Enquiries 01454 6506.

JENNINGS - Gwen (Gwendolen Margaret) - née Morris, died on May 31st 1997, in her 96th year, in her home, 15, Mayfield, after a long illness. She was a devoted mother and wife. Enquiries 01454 6506.

JENNINGS - Gwen (Gwendolen Margaret) - née Morris, died on May 31st 1997, in her 96th year, in her home, 15, Mayfield, after a long illness. She was a devoted mother and wife. Enquiries 01454 6506.

JENNINGS - Gwen

OBITUARIES

EDDIE THOMAS

Eddie Thomas, MBE, former boxer, trainer and manager, died on June 2 aged 71. He was born in Merthyr Tydfil on July 27, 1925.

Although Eddie Thomas held British, European and Commonwealth titles at welterweight between 1949 and 1951, it is for his handling of other fighters that he has his permanent niche in the history of boxing. In the late 1960s and early 1970s he guided to world titles two of the best British boxers to have graced the ring since the war: Howard Winstone, like himself, a Merthyr man, and the Scot Ken Buchanan.

Under his tutelage Winstone held the world featherweight crown in 1968 (though, had it not been for the presence on the world stage of the exceptional Mexican Vicente Saldivar, it would undoubtedly have been longer). Ken Buchanan reigned as world lightweight champion from 1970 to 1972.

Thomas also trained the talented and brave Gorseion welterweight Colin Jones, who won British, European and Commonwealth titles and came close to winning the world crown on two occasions against Milton McCrory in 1983, boxing a draw in the first of these two contests, after a fight in which he had done all the attacking.

As a trainer, Thomas was a traditionalist, believing that the job was the foundation of all ring strategy. But it was as a corner and cuts man that he was best known in the trade. Henry Cooper, always a man prone to bleed profusely if his face was subjected to stern fistic attack, insisted on having Thomas in his corner after his own cut man, Danny Holland, left him in 1970.

Thomas had a knack of finding simple solutions for awkward situations during a fight. In the first bout between Buchanan and Ismael Laguna for the world lightweight title in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1970, realising that the sun would be in Buchanan's eyes during the intervals in the



fight, Thomas quickly persuaded a woman spectator in ringside to part with her parasol for the sum of \$10.

In the second meeting with Laguna, in Madison Square Garden in 1971, Thomas earned the admiration of American cornermen when they saw how he dealt with a huge swelling that was affecting Buchanan's vision. Instead of relying on ice, Thomas, with surgical precision, nicked the skin with a razor blade and drained out

the blood, thereby allowing Buchanan to box brilliantly and retain the title.

As a boxer himself, though he held British, Empire and European titles he never fought for the world crown. He was about to meet Sugar Ray Robinson in 1951, but then the champion decided to move up to middleweight. Thomas's best result was a win over Billy Graham, who the experts believed should have been given the verdict over Kid Gavilan of Cuba in their first

meeting in New York in 1951. Since Gavilan went on to become world champion, Thomas's victory over Graham said a good deal about his potential.

Like his father, Thomas was a coalminer. He went down the pits at the age of 14 but was also boxing at an early age. After winning the ABA lightweight title in 1946, he turned professional. Three years later, he took the British title from Henry Hall on points at Harringay Arena and by 1951

he had three titles under his belt.

He won the Empire crown in January 1951 by stopping Pat Patrick of South Africa in 13 rounds in Johannesburg and then in June lifted the European championship by outpointing Michele Palermo, of Italy, at Carmarthen, though the latter gave the much younger, stronger Thomas a good deal more trouble than might have been expected. As a boxer, Thomas often seemed to laze through some of the rounds, only exploding into activity after the remonstrations of his exasperated seconds.

He lost all three titles before the year was out. Wally Thom from Liverpool took his British and Empire titles from him in London after a strange contest. Thomas was at his most enigmatic that night, manifestly failing to capitalise on his superior ringcraft and more comprehensive arsenal of punches. By the time he floored his man briefly in the 13th, the contest had all but slid away from him and he did nothing in the final two rounds to exert the pressure on a young and rugged opponent of which he was clearly capable.

The loss of his European crown on points at Portlough on June 13, 1951, was a very different matter. Charles Humez of France was far too strong for Thomas who that night took a beating unexampled in his career.

Thomas always struggled to make the welterweight limit and had there been a light middleweight division at the time, he could have moved up and might well have prospered. As it was weight problems, his defeats and his damaged hands forced him into retirement in 1952, to the great benefit of training.

He bought an open cast mine outside Merthyr Tydfil with his ring earnings and combined the careers of mining and ring training for more than thirty years. In 1990 he became an independent councillor in a Labour-dominated Merthyr council and four years later became Mayor. He was appointed MBE for his services to British sport in 1984; his name was posted alongside those of great sportsmen in the Welsh Hall of Fame in 1991. Merthyr Tydfil made him a Freeman in 1992.

Thomas was always known as a generous man, and perhaps training and looking after his fighters was more his forte than management and the calculation of percentages. But it was his warmth of personality and his involvement in pugilism, the pits and local politics that made him one of the enduringly memorable personalities of Merthyr and the South Wales valleys.

Eddie Thomas is survived by his wife Kay, two sons and two daughters.

DOC CHEATHAM



Adolphus ("Doc") Cheatham, jazz trumpeter, died in Washington on June 2 aged 91. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 13, 1905.

A suave and sophisticated musician, Doc Cheatham was among the best-loved figures in jazz. Though his career began in the 1920s, he achieved his biggest following late in life. Towards the end he became something of a New York institution, thanks to his Sunday afternoon appearances at Sweet Basil, the Greenwich Village jazz venue.

He remained active to the last: on the Saturday before his death he played to an appreciative audience at the Blues Alley club in Washington. One of his partners on the bandstand was the young trumpeter Nicholas Payton — some seventy years his junior — with whom he had recorded an album of relaxed duets released earlier this year.

Cheatham's career spanned almost the entire history of recorded jazz. One of his most prized possessions was a well-polished brass mute that had been given to him more than half a century earlier by the pioneering cornetist Joe "King" Oliver, mentor to the young Louis Armstrong.

Adolphus Cheatham was given his nickname by medical students with whom he played in a band in his native Nashville. His first experience of playing music came in a boys' club, called the Bright Future Stars. He soon began playing cornet and saxophone in a vaudeville theatre.

Among the players he worked with was the pianist Mary Lou Williams. She and her husband offered Cheatham a job in a touring company. Despite his parents' wish to enrol him in medical school, Cheatham accepted and set off on the arduous round of segregated theatres known as the Tuba circuit — "Tough On Black Asses".

Settling in Chicago, he concentrated on trumpet and followed his contemporaries in absorbing the innovations made by Louis Armstrong. In 1928, after playing with Wilbur de Paris, he set off for Europe as lead trumpet with the popular band led by the pianist Sam Wooding, and went on to spend around three years on the Continent, based in Berlin. In later years he would recall how, while his colleagues were out carousing during the off-duty hours, he would stay in his room and use a portable organ to study harmony.

Returning to America in 1930, Cheatham played lead with McKinney's Cotton Pickers before finding a lucrative niche with the Cab Calloway Orchestra until 1939, taking part in many performances at the legendary Cotton Club. Later his health broke down, and he travelled to Europe to convalesce.

Cheatham dropped from view when he was drafted for military service. Because of his age he was given the option of performing in a military band in the Pacific or working in the postal service. He chose the latter, and did not play professionally for some two years. Since the advent of bebop held little interest for him, he considered retiring altogether until he received an offer of work with Dixieland groups.

The following years brought steady but unspectacular music-making. For several years Cheatham played with Latin bands such as Machito's Orchestra. He was also reunited with Calloway and Wilbur de Paris, and in 1967 played with the Benny Goodman Sextet.

It was not until well past retirement age that his solo career began to blossom. With so many jazz legends either dead or inactive, audiences began to appreciate Cheatham's importance as a link with the music's vintage period. And, whereas most trum-

peters find their powers waning in old age, Cheatham's playing seemed to grow in stature.

He found himself especially in demand at smaller, more intimate venues, where he was able to strike up an immediate rapport with his listeners. In 1980 he began his celebrated Sunday "brunch" sessions at Sweet Basil, where, usually accompanied by a trio, he regaled audiences with wry anecdotes and superb solos which roamed confidently through the upper register. His posture was distinctive: head tilted back, trumpet held almost vertical to allow the clearest possible passage of air.

In later years, encouraged by the earlier examples of Armstrong and Henry "Red" Allen, Cheatham brought singing into his routine, partly as a means of resting his embouchure. His early vocal efforts were not always appreciated by his fellow musicians, but he persevered, and eventually memorised scores of Tin Pan Alley songs. Daintily picking his way through the lyrics, he made even the oldest material sound fresh.

He continued to make regular visits to Europe. In London his stints at the Pizza Express cellar in Dean Street were invariably first-rate. In 1990 he celebrated ten years of performing at Sweet Basil. That same year he marked his 85th birthday with another sterling performance at the venue, greeted with a well-earned standing ovation and a champagne toast.

In 1992, Columbia Records honoured him by recording his group for its "Legendary Pioneers of Jazz" series, yielding a fine album, *The Eighty Seven Years of Doc Cheatham*. In 1996 he published his autobiography, *I Guess I'll Get the Papers and Go Home*, named after one of his favourite songs.

He is survived by his wife Nellie and their son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: St Andrew's Church School
Scheme for the appointment of the charity.
Reference: 02-58388
The Charity Commission has made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at the offices of the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, or a copy can be obtained by sending a request to the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, quoting the above reference number.
Dated the 2nd day of June 1997

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 696 6678
FAX: 0171 696 6678
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.00pm two days prior to insertion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Annual General Meeting of SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society ("the Society") will be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 27 June 1997 at 12 noon (or as soon thereafter as the Special General Meeting convened for 11.00 a.m. on the same date and at the same place is concluded or adjourned) for the following purposes:

- to consider the Report and Accounts for 1996 together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports thereon;
- to reappoint the following directors who retire by rotation:
 - (As Resolution 1) P. L. A. Jamieson; and
 - (As Resolution 2) J. A. Spens;
- (As Resolution 3) to reappoint Ernst & Young as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration; and
- (As Resolution 4) to approve the remuneration to be paid to the directors.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
James C. Mitchell
Secretary

Principal Office:
P.O. Box 25, Craigforth
Stirling FK9 4UE

NOTES:

- Any member entitled to vote at meetings of the Society (a "Voting Member") is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member of the Society) as his proxy to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote instead of him. A proxy who is not himself a Voting Member is not entitled to speak at the Annual General Meeting except to demand or join in demanding a poll.
- Forms of proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which they are signed, or a notariated certified copy of such power or authority, should be deposited at the principal office of the Society, Craigforth, Stirling FK9 4UE not later than 12.00 noon on 25 June 1997. The lodging of a form of proxy will not prevent a Voting Member from voting in person at the Annual General Meeting, if he or she wishes to do so.
- It is important that Voting Members intending to vote personally bring with them to the Annual General Meeting the letter accompanying their form of proxy or, failing that, details of their policy number(s) and some means of identification. Holders of proxies should bring with them to the Annual General Meeting details of the policy number(s) in respect of which they have been appointed proxy and some means of identification. On arrival at the Annual General Meeting, please register with the officials who will be at the door. Registration will commence at 10.00 a.m.

Scottish Amicable

GEORGE P. LIVANOS



George P. Livanos, Greek shipping magnate, died in Athens on June 1 aged 70. He was born on August 8, 1926.

GEORGE P. LIVANOS, who at his death operated the largest single merchant fleet of any Greek shipowner, was often confused with the George S. Livanos one of whose sisters was the first wife of Aristotle Onassis. Although both men maintained fairly low profiles throughout their careers — perhaps in reaction to Onassis's brightness in the firmament — George P. Livanos did as much as any of his colleagues to build up war Greece into a formidable merchant shipping power.

His shipping company, Ceres, operates the familiar yellow Russian-built hydrofoils, known as Flying Dolphins, that in the past two decades have knit the Greek

islands and the remote Peloponnesian communities together for the benefit of tourist and commuter alike.

Born in New Orleans, George P. Livanos was an early product of the American business school system, which he combined with his Greek

nationality to build up two major shipping operations, one in tankers and the other in passenger shipping. The tanker fleet runs 43 tankers and is a leading member of Intertanko (the Association of Independent Tanker Operators) which runs about 70 per cent of the world's independently-owned tanker fleet.

Realising the ambiguous image that tankers have, in these years of oil spills and ecological disasters, Livanos was the first Greek tycoon to work towards protecting the marine environment. In the early 1980s he set up the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association — better known by its acronym of Helmepea — and was its chairman for years until his final illness.

A further innovation was his setting up a representative office in Moscow before the fall of communism. An influ-

ential member of the Greek lobby in Washington, Livanos gave his support to the Democrat Michael Dukakis's bid for the American presidency in 1988.

Last year Livanos's 95 vessels accounted for well over two million gross registered tonnes, the largest single part of the Greek-flag fleet of some 28 million tonnes. He shunned flags of convenience; every Livanos ship flew the Greek flag, a principle which, at his funeral, was acknowledged when Greece's merchant marine minister, Stavros Samakris, allowed a Greek flag to be draped over his coffin.

George Livanos was married to Fotini Carras of the Carras shipping family. She and his son Peter and daughter Maria survive him. During his father's illness, Peter had taken control of the Livanos shipping empire.

MARSHAL TITO'S TRIUMPH

GREAT WELCOME IN MOSCOW
From Our Special Correspondent

MOSCOW, June 3
Marshal Tito, who yesterday received a hero's welcome to Moscow, will pay separate calls tomorrow to Mr. Bulganin, the Russian Prime Minister, and Mr. Krushchev, the Communist Party First Secretary. Marshal Tito, his wife, and members of the Yugoslav delegation spent today visiting the agricultural exhibition in Moscow, the industrial exhibition, and the botanical gardens.

Greeting the Yugoslav party on their arrival on Saturday by rail, President Voroshilov expressed the conviction that Marshal Tito's visit would result in the expansion of political, economic, and cultural ties, and in "still more active Soviet-Yugoslav co-operation for the solution of topical international problems."

In his response, read in heavily accented Russian, Marshal Tito referred to the break between the two nations as "unprecedented and tragic, for which neither the peoples of Yugoslavia nor the peoples of the Soviet Union were to blame." By the choice of those words at the outset of his visit, Marshal Tito

ON THIS DAY

June 4, 1956

Stalin broke with Tito in 1948, and did all he could, by fair means or foul, to bring down the Yugoslav leader; but Tito was determined to maintain his country's independence. He had the last word, and was given a hero's welcome when he visited Russia in 1956.

seemed clearly to place the blame for the disaffection in 1948 on Stalin.

Referring to the period of Yugoslav expulsion from the Cominform, Marshal Tito said: "It was hard for us, but we believed that the time would come when everything that disunited us would be overcome, and our friendship would receive a new, strong basis. This time came, thanks to the Leninist policy of the Government and central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. All that is now behind us."

He said that the visit to Belgrade last year of Mr. Krushchev, Mr. Bulganin, Mr. Mikoyan,

and others, the joint declaration signed at the end of their visit, and the far-sighted foreign policy being followed by collective leadership of the Soviet Union, served as a guarantee that the disagreeable events of the past would not be repeated.

Marshal Tito must have experienced considerable personal satisfaction at his reception yesterday in Moscow, which had an element of triumph in it. After incuring for five years consistent invective from the Russians, he was cheered by thousands of Muscovites lining the broad avenues in warm sunlight. The Marshal, who was wearing a bluish-grey uniform adorned with gold and red, waved from the back from an open car which was escorted by motor cycle outriders.

Moscow took on a holiday for the occasion. Loudspeakers broadcast Macedonian and Serbian songs. Usually these loudspeakers are used only on national holidays, such as May Day and the anniversary of the revolution. Red banners flew from the lamp posts. The Moscow television service began transmission two hours earlier than usual to cover the proceedings at the station.

With the other Russian leaders at the station was Mr. Molotov, whose resignation as Foreign Minister was announced on Friday night.

Why Channel 5 is failing to get a following

Lesson one: do not forget to tune the telly

At the finale of the Hay Literary Festival I had the fun of interviewing Keith Waterhouse, the doyen of newspaper columnists, who has written *Streets Ahead*, a book about Fleet Street in the hilarious hot-metal days.

The pleasure was mixed with wariness, however, because I live in constant fear of breaking the commandments for columnists that he once laid down in the *British Journalism Review*. Chief among these was, in effect, "Thou shalt not quote". Columnists are supposed to give their own opinions, not somebody else's.

There I've broken it already, so I shall proceed to break it again. If I declared: "Nobody anticipated Channel 5's signal would be so weak. The frequency they operate on is outside the range of most people's aural range. There is nothing they can do to improve reception, you wouldn't believe me, because I'm not a technical writer. So thanks to Barry Fox, who writes for technical publications, including *New Scientist*, even if he brings gloomy news."

In my own voice I can say that Channel 5's efforts in educating the public about its reception have been a public relations disaster. Imagine starting a flashy new restaurant, taking big advertisements to proclaim the skills of the chef and then neglecting to tell people how to find it.

The PR trouble can be summarised in the difference between "tune" and "retune". Channel 5 spent so much effort in publicising the way it was retuning video recorders (to avoid the new channel interfering with video, cable or satellite pictures) that it forgot to tell people that they needed to tune their television set to get the channel at all. Of the two operations, tuning was by far the more important: the essential to building an audience. Many British homes are in areas where videos did not require retuning. Because of all the hoo-ha about retuning, some viewers, not having had a call from the retuner, did not even try to find 5 for themselves. Many have yet to watch even one programme on it.

How could Channel 5 have missed this obvious first step in public education? Its primary-colour posters and on-screen logo are brilliant: the retuning of millions of homes was carried out with impressive smoothness. The reason is, I suspect, that the uncertainties about the eventual picture quality of the channel loomed so large and dark that in the rush to get 5 on the air by Easter, the best tactic seemed "less said, the better". Also, Channel 5 can do little to help with the tuning operation itself. Its main advice to those who wanted to bring up 5 at

the press of a button has been a cheery "You can do it yourself". Many people cannot.

The first step in tuning your set for Channel 5, "Consult your TV manual", should actually be the second. The first instruction should be on how to find where you put this document. There are undoubtedly households that cherish the book of words that came with the television set and keep it covered in plastic, chained to the box. Ours, alas, has been long lost, along with the instructions in Portuguese and Finnish on how to unclog the waste disposal.

Luckily, my son was in temporary residence in London last week. Being both something of a techie and a football fan, he managed to get the set tuned in time for Saturday's Poland-England match. Yet even he did not find it a simple matter, and the satellite option was no help.



BRENDA MADDOX

Merely to find out where the fault lies for your home's poor reception of Channel 5 can cost money. The charge for a house call from my local aerial installers is £35 plus VAT. For that, a friendly expert will tell you whether you need to buy a new aerial (upwards of £90), get some additions for the satellite receiver (at somewhat less if he can be sure what you need) or just tune the set for you. All that presumes that you want to watch the programmes. The quality of these, even of the football commentary, hardly matters. Programmes, performances and the choice of movies can be improved over time. Inadequate reception cannot — at least, not without the kind of investment that makes Channel 5 something other than what it purports to be: the last of the free terrestrial channels.

The higher reaches of techno-fear go far beyond an inability to tune Channel 5 or set the video recorder. A few months ago I made an earnest attempt to install new software to make my personal computer Internet-worthy. Not only did I fail, but somehow the struggle made it impossible for me any longer to enter the magic doorway called Windows. I phoned my suppliers' helpline, where one of those un-naturally patient, doctor-like voices, trained to accept that mortal stupidity knows no limits, asked me what my screen was showing instead. I described the Windows logo that glowed faintly at me, refusing to budge.

"What you have," diagnosed the man of science, "is what we call the 'Blue Screen of Death'." Windows, it seems, having taken umbrage at the attempted intrusion, has departed my computer, leaving just a grinning ghost of itself in its place. No letters, please.

Britain's TV buyers are in LA looking for the next hit series, says Giles Whittell

In search of a blockbuster

It was probably only a matter of time before a studio in search of a television hit came up with the idea of a series on the life and longings of a lingerie tycoon. Fleshed out, as it were, that idea now has a title — *Veronica's Closet* — and a well-known star, Kirstie Alley. Second only to Steven Spielberg's sequel to *Jurassic Park*, it is suddenly the talk of Hollywood.

So far, the pilot episode of this *Baywatch*-meets-*Dynasty* concoction has been shown only to jet-lagged executives in a plush private cinema on the Warner Brothers back lot. But as surely as prime time follows the early evening news, it will be coming soon to a sitting room near you.

This is the season of the LA Screenings. For the past two weeks teams of programme-buyers, including several from Britain, have been descending on Los Angeles to install themselves in expensive hotel suites and view the American television industry's latest offerings. Spearheaded by *Veronica's Closet*, many will end up competing for your leisure hours as *ER* and *Seinfeld* do already.

There are no fewer than 140 new dramas and sitcoms to choose from this year. Dozens seem aimed rather desperately at the inner teenager in us all. Take *Roar*, for instance, a "medieval action drama" from Universal Television set in AD 450 when "Attila the Hun is on the move and Vandals are sacking Rome".

Or *Meego*, in which Bronson Pinchot, who was a gay art gallery assistant in *Beverly Hills Cop*, plays a nanny from outer space.

The subject matter can seem fatuous but the stakes are high. For the big studios, the LA Screenings are where much of the heavy sales work behind America's huge cultural export drive is done. Scattered across town in hotels and private screening rooms, they lack the coherence and glamour of a film festival such as Cannes, but pull in big bucks.

According to *Variety*, American companies earned \$2.5 billion last year selling dramas and sitcoms to traditional networks overseas, and \$1 billion more from sales to foreign cable and satellite broadcasters. The going rate for combined foreign sales of a top-notch, hour-long drama such as *ER* is \$750,000 an episode, and rising.

British buyers grumble about the inflation, but they keep coming. The BBC sent a team of five (to the \$300-a-night Bel-Air Hotel), ITV and Channel 4 sent seven each to the marginally less opulent Four Seasons and Peninsula hotels. BSkyB sent five.

All are prospecting for the odd gem that recent experience tells them should be hidden in a glossy but otherwise indifferent field — "a *Millennium* or a *Murder One*", as Jeffrey Ford of ITV put it.

If they've found what they are



Top bobs: Donna D'Errica and Traci Bingham launch the new *Baywatch*

looking for, they aren't saying. The buzz surrounding *Veronica's Closet* has been caused by American advertisers labelling it a surefire success and by a record-breaking bid from WIC Television, a Canadian broadcaster.

The Brits admit privately that one of them will end up buying the new underwear drama, but they are famously cagey at the Screenings. "There's no hot ticket like last year," says Ford. "There are lots of good

shows but not one that knocks your socks off and says, 'This is a show you have to have'." Colin Leventhal of Channel 4, which has vowed to cut the amount of programming it buys from abroad, echoes him: "It is not a vintage year."

Still, no one is likely to go home empty-handed. Having learnt from experience that American comedies seldom travel well, (*Seinfeld* and *Friends* excepted), the studios have laid on a smorgasbord of the one-hour drama series that sell best abroad. They come in three categories: law and order, futuristic fantasy and mild titillation.

In a week when America's violent-crime rate plunged by 11 per cent, fictionalised crime remains a growth industry. *Brooklyn South* is the closest thing to "hot". Asked about viewers' response to it at screenings, a promoter said: "The understatement would be 'through the roof'." Ford agrees that it will probably grace British screens within the next two years.

Universal's *Timecop* straddles the law-and-order and science-fiction categories as neatly as its name suggests. Whether British audiences will find time for a series based on a failed film starring Jean-Claude Van Damme is moot.

If not, comparable fare includes *The Visitor* (from the director of *Independence Day*), *Sleepwalkers* (about doctors entering patients' dreams) and *Hungry for Survival* ("What if a human sub-species evolved with a different strand of DNA that made it sociopathic?"). Oh, and *Meego*.

As for titillation, look no further than the company that handles international sales of *Baywatch*. The Fremantle Corporation, headed by Paul Talbot, is now also pushing a peculiar hybrid series, *Bondi*, named after the Sydney beach. Its cast play athletes from the Atlanta Olympics recruited for such skills as pole vaulting and javelin throwing to form an anti-terrorist squad for Sydney's 2000 Games. "There will be beach scenes and beautiful bodies, male and female," Talbot says with barely a hint of self-mockery. "The bodies will not be exploited for the camera, because the characters portrayed are athletes."

Which channel gets which series at what price is determined by secret and sometimes tense negotiations, now in progress, that Talbot describes as "a marvellous mating dance developed over the years in order for the species to survive".

One thing is certain. *Baywatch* itself is far from dead. Now launching its eighth season, this festival of tans and Lycra remains the most-watched programme on the planet. In Britain it will stay on ITV, early on Saturday evenings. In Bosnia and Rwanda you might need a satellite dish.

BUZZ FACTOR — TOP NEW SHOWS

1. **VERONICA'S CLOSET:** drama about lingerie tycoon: Warner Bros TV
2. **BROOKLYN SOUTH:** drama about two street cops: Steven Bochco
3. **ALLY McBEAL:** legal drama with female lead: Fox TV
4. **MICHAEL HAYES:** legal drama, David Caruso: NBC
5. **DELLAVENTURA:** Danny Aiello as private eye: CBS
6. **TIMECOP:** based on the futuristic film: Universal TV
7. **DHARMA AND GREG:** sitcom about hippy woman and square lawyer: Fox TV
8. **NOTHING SACRED:** drama about troubled young priest: Fox TV

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THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Unhappy inside Camelot

FRAYED tempers in the Camelot press office, where staff have been flat out defending their directors' astronomical pay rises. When news of the scandal broke last week, workers were brought to exhaustion as phones went into overdrive and they had to field hundreds of questions from grumpy journalists.

The task was not made any easier by the fact that while the menials (average salary, £18,000) slaved away, some of the directors were enjoying foreign climes. David Rigg, recipient of a 90 per cent rise, spent the week in France with his wife and children while Sir George Russell was on non-Camelot business in America. One executive, told by a work-

Lottery loser

DESPITE misgivings about Camelot, Chris Smith still likes a flutter every Saturday. Mr Smith has chosen his numbers based on simple things like his age and his dog's birthday. But Lady Luck has failed to smile on the Heritage Secretary: he is yet to win a bean. "I play every week



Smith: Camelot flutter

but I have never won even £10," he says, cheerfully. His unlucky numbers are 7, 12, 24, 27, 33, 45.

EVIDENCE comes

that some of the more excitable members of Labour's Millbank Tendency have not heeded warnings against triumphalism. After the release last week of a BBC video, Election '97, a new party game is being played by young apparatchiks. They watch the highlights of the election night coverage, taking a swig from their glasses every time another Tory seat falls and a double plug for each former Cabinet minister. The last one left standing is "Prime Minister" for the evening.

Farewell Max

MARK HONIGSBAUM, a top feature writer on the Evening Standard, is leaving to join the Independent on Sunday. After he wrote of the criminal histories of five IRA prisoners alleged to have broken out of Whitehall prison, their trial was abandoned, and his Editor, Max Hastings, apologised in court.



Honigsbaum: new job

Last month it was announced that contempt proceedings were being brought against Hastings.

Frontline Sadler

NEVER one for the quiet life, the ex-ITN reporter Brent Sadler has accepted the job of reopening CNN's bureau in Beirut. Sadler has been picked partly for his journalistic skills and partly because he isn't American. The US Government bans all its citizens, including journalists, from travelling to Lebanon because it is considered too dangerous. CNN closed its Beirut bureau in 1985 after its correspondent Jerry Levin was kidnapped, escaping after 100 days. "Lebanon remains a melting pot of conflicting interests," says British-born Sadler. "The southern tip of the country is still a war zone." It's not as though Sadler doesn't have enough excitement in his life. He is married to Tess Stimson, bestselling author of steamy novels, who is expecting their second child in September.

Fact, fiction and the F-factor

Lis Howell may have been sacked by GMTV but she has used the experience as a rich source of material for her autobiographical novels. Jason Cowley reports

Lis Howell spends her days working in what she calls the "cut-throat, egot-driven, largely male" world of television. She spends the evenings turning her experiences into fiction. As the former GMTV executive humbly admitted before the station was six weeks old, she is not short of material. Her last days at GMTV were marked with discord over collapsing ratings and the loss of two million viewers, panic provoked by the vibrancy of *The Big Breakfast*, and much bluster over the "F-factor", of having fanciable presenters.

Despite being happily installed for the past three years as head of UK Living, the satellite channel that broadcasts 18 hours a day of light entertainment and discussion for women, Howell remains bitter about what is perceived as her failure at GMTV. She insists, too, that there was nothing wrong with the concept of the F-factor: that she was correct to urge Fiona Armstrong and other senior broadcasters to wear shorter skirts. "I want viewers to fancy the presenters," she famously said, before telling Armstrong to chew on a coat-hanger to bring out her smile.

Armstrong later accused Howell of "delivering her on a plate" to spiteful columnists, and complained that "the shape of my calves, colour of my hair and the frequency of my smile" dominated the opening weeks of the launch of GMTV.

"The whole F-factor thing got so out of hand," Howell says, sitting in her cramped, untidy Soho office. She has a light, giggly voice that betrays traces of her early years in Liverpool and Manchester. "Fiona must have been humiliated by all the fuss, but I don't regret what I said to her because that was my job. I know when Fiona subsequently lost her job and her agent was looking for someone to blame, I took more flak. But the F-factor concept isn't wrong. Fiona Phillips, Antenna Turner, Gaby Roslin: they all have it. Looking attractive on television is a big part of the job."

Her voice trails away and her eyes glaze over. Something has caught her attention on the television in a corner of her office, which she monitors diligently throughout the interview. She does not wish to miss a moment of UK Living.

Under the terms of her severance contract she is legally obliged not to talk about the background to her dismissal, although much of her unspoken frustration is in the

novels. At times, her books read as little more than veiled autobiography. Her male characters are especially nefarious, ruthlessly dismissive of the aspirations of women.

Reading these novels you wonder: a) what really happened to Howell that she should have such a disturbed and vengeful imagination; and b) why, if she feels like this about television, has she not turned her back on the whole thing and opted for a quiet life?

Howell, 40, joined the launch team of GMTV in autumn 1991 from Sky News, where as managing editor she had streamlined the news desk with ruthless efficiency. There were many redundancies. "Although these were unfortunate they had to be made. The business had to succeed; someone had to make money. The payoffs at Sky weren't

'I suffered a long drawn out death by a thousand pricks — in every sense'

dreadful and many of those made redundant, because of their experience at Sky, were more marketable than before. In the end, I got the rotas working."

At Sky, and before that as head of news at Border Television, she was used to the uncertainty and labyrinthine politics of office life. Nothing could prepare her, however, for what she encountered at GMTV, where she says she suffered "a long drawn-out death by a thousand pricks — and in every sense."

"I agreed to join because, at the time, I believed in [the executive management team] Greg Dyke, Christopher Bland and Hugh Pile. I know now that you can be too easily led by reputation. I think many of the people involved in those franchise applications in 1991 were overly optimistic. They assumed that they were going to be successful."

During her last days at GMTV Howell felt helpless and abandoned. "The [then] chairman Greg Dyke had clearly lost interest in her," says a friend. "She even had to book appointments to see him."

Howell remembers encountering Dyke in the corridor shortly before she was dismissed. As they passed, Dyke reached out to ruffle her hair. "It was gross. You know, I can still feel those awful fingertips. I saw him the other day. He said to my boss: 'Does she still hate me?' I said: 'Read the books.'"

When the end finally came it was brutal. "They took the car, the mobile phone, the keys — everything. The day before I was sacked I was driving to see my parents. Alex [her teenage daughter] was in the back. The phone rang: it was [her boss] Chris Stoddart. He said: 'I've got to see you tomorrow. I'm afraid it's the worst.' At that moment, Alex was sick. I remember saying to myself, 'I'm not going to clean this car before returning it.'"

Despite once having turned down a job on the women's pages of a regional paper, for fear of being marginalised, Howell feels fulfilled at UK Living. Her only regret is that she only spends weekends with her partner, Ian Proniewicz, who does her old job as head of news at Border. "The arrangement seems to work. Having separate territories might actually be good for you as you get older, although I guess it could eventually lead to strain."

UK Living has a plodding predictability — "light and fluffy" is how Howell describes its programmes about fashion, families, relationships and health. One wonders if such material underestimates the intelligence of many women?

"I accept there's a lot of fluffy stuff," she says peaceably enough. "But some of our shows are incredibly hard, exploring tough, complex issues. The station addresses 52 per cent of the population; our audience is about five or six million per week — far better figures than most women's magazines."

You suspect, though, that more than anything else she relishes the fact that she is still around. "I was psychologically killed off at GMTV," she says. "In a competitive business like television, where there are big egos and money, people will always look to exploit other people's flaws. There is a feeling that women are more vulnerable — that their mistakes are due to the fact that they are neurotic or menopausal."

"I know that if I'd gone away or had a nervous breakdown there were people who would have been delighted. Instead, I got on with my life and found another job."

• A Job to Die For is published by Coronet at £5.99 (Thursday)



Lis Howell: her books contain a coded message for her former boss at GMTV's launch. Greg Dyke

Private affairs and public warfare

Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, has flattered editorial doves by uttering the unutterable and suggesting a deal with politicians and the courts over a new law of privacy. Among journalists, the suggestion amounts to heresy, and Rusbridger is only the second editor — after Andrew Marr of *The Independent* — who has broken from the united ranks of Fleet Street, where editors have been fighting shoulder to shoulder for a decade against attempts to introduce new laws on press conduct.

Yet that generation of editors had stood together, Rusbridger argued in his recent James Cameron Memorial Lecture, because it would have been fatal to concede a privacy law without a compensating bias towards easier libel laws or freedom of information.

"The result is that we have, effectively, been driven to defend the indefensible. We have stood by and watched a decade of intrusive stories published and meekly held our silence... in the name of precisely what public good?" At *The Mirror*, the Editor Piers Morgan, who once edited the *News of the World*, describes himself as "incandescent" about Rusbridger's idea. He says it would destroy the mass-market tabloids and the stories their readers want: "I will not be lectured on a privacy law by a former *Guardian* gossip columnist who daily invaded privacy."

Phil Hall, the Editor of the *News of the World*, agrees: a privacy law would protect the Establishment and mean more corruption, fraud and misbehaviour in high places. Would *The Guardian*, he asks, have been able to expose Neil Hamilton, the former Taffon MP whom Rusbridger named as "a liar and a cheat", if there were a privacy law? Rusbridger says as if there is going to be a privacy law from the new Government, surely, he argues, it is better to negotiate on the basis of a *quid pro quo* — the courts giving a little on freedom of



MacArthur: PAPER ROUND

information, the Government on freedom of information, and the media on intrusive journalism. The result could be a new right to free expression, and a new right to know.

"I would happily sacrifice the freedom to expose the love-life of a BBC weather forecaster to 11 million prurient eyes if it meant that the courts would give greater protection to papers or broadcasters reporting corruption or dishonesty in public life."

Hall and Morgan resent Rusbridger's comments and accuse him of hypocrisy. "The *Guardian* specialises in dis-

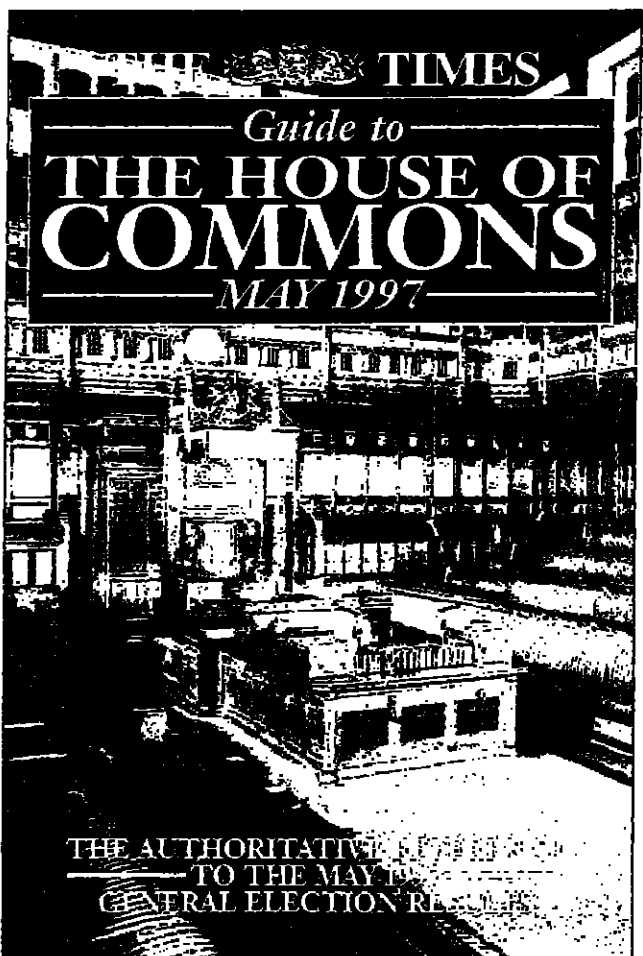
'For ten years, editors have fought new laws'

secting tabloid scandals," says Morgan. "When Bob Geldof and Paula Yates split up I had a *Guardian* journalist on the phone asking for a full briefing on their marriage."

It was the *News of the World* that exposed the BBC weather forecaster cited by Rusbridger. Hall has no regrets: "He had been marketing himself as a family man when his behaviour was totally different." Both also argue that the tabloids' behaviour has improved hugely since the establishment of the Press Complaints Commission. The PCC confirms this, saying only one in eight complaints is about invasion of privacy, and only a handful are upheld.

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Costs targeted to counter future impact of pricing curbs

Warning by Grid as profits rise

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE NATIONAL GRID, the country's electricity transmission network operator, yesterday warned of a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits with a warning of tougher times over future results because of the latest pricing review.

But the company pledged to combat the impact of the price curbs, which came into force in April, with a tough cost-cutting programme.

David Jones, chief executive, said that no more job losses were planned on top of the 750 outlined six months ago but that up to 70 middle managers would be affected by cutting out two layers of management. So far 200 company jobs have gone with the remainder to come in the next five years. The Grid is targeting a double-digit reduction in controllable costs in its transmission operation this year, and plans a cut of 6 per cent a year for the next four years.

Along with other utilities in the windfall tax firing line, the Grid is lobbying to keep its bill as low as possible. Mr Jones said that it has emphasised to Treasury officials that regional electricity companies, which used to own the business prior to its flotation in late 1995, received most of the benefits. It has also highlighted the £50 per customer rebate paid after the company moved onto the stock market, which took £1 billion off its balance sheet.

The Grid is keeping silent on whether it would mount a legal challenge to the tax until it knows the form and amount of the levy. It has made a written submission to the Treasury but has no plans to meet officials. They are holding talks with other companies ahead of the Budget when Gordon Brown will announce details of the tax.

Energy, the Grid's telecoms division, improved its performance in the year to March 31 and the company said it was no longer looking to involve key partners in the operation but rather to forge alliances. Sales at the subsidiary jumped 127 per cent and the operating loss was cut by 26 per cent, to £54.2 million.

The company said it was pressing on with international expansion in spite of problems in Pakistan where the Government has refused permission for it to link independent power stations into the transmission network. It is increasing its stake in Argentina's network in a move that will

make it the registered operator. The Grid is also bidding for projects in Australia, India and Zambia.

Overall, pre-tax profits rose 12.2 per cent from pro forma figures to £991.4 million. Strong cash generation and the refund of surplus advance corporation tax reduced the company's gearing from 114 per cent to 61 per cent. The final dividend, due October 1, was set at 6.68p, making a total for the year of 11.13p, up by 8.4 per cent.

US provides warning on trade union law changes

By Oliver August

THE Government has been told that the US system for resolving industrial disputes, which was flagged as a blueprint for new UK union legislation during the election campaign, suffers from serious deficiencies.

William Gould, who runs the system as chairman of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), said: "Britain should avoid the pitfalls of litigation that we have encountered."

Mr Gould, a Stanford University law professor appointed by President Clinton in 1993, held talks with Ian McCartney, the Trade Minister, and officials at the Confederation of British Industry and the Trade Union Congress this week.

Under the American system, unions and employers consistently end up in court over decisions made by the NLRB. In the UK, the courts could become even more important in industrial disputes because of the way British unions are structured, according to Mr Gould.

He said: "You could have far more litigation in Britain than we have had. The UK has a much less tidy structure of unions." Many unions cover different occupations and compete within occupations.

Herein lies potential for conflict. The NLRB's main job is to decide which unions should be recognised by employers. Workers at individual factories can petition the NLRB to gain union recognition.

If more than 30 per cent of workers are found to be interested in collective bargaining, the NLRB will hold an official ballot at the factory. Mr Gould said: "Problems can arise here. Employers will intimidate employees and hold up the proceedings." In such cases the NLRB will take the employer to court.

One solution to the problem of different unions competing for union recognition at individual factories would be to form a new central organisation, according to Mr Gould. He said: "This could be some sort of central mechanism involving the TUC."

"Our system is generally a good one. But I would hope that the UK will go into this aware of the problems that have arisen in the US."

KPMG tax fears for business

KPMG, the accountancy firm, believes the Government will use the Budget to make big changes in corporate taxation, including the abolition of tax relief on dividend payments (Alasdair Murray writes).

Ian Barlow, head of the tax division, yesterday said that Labour is most likely to target the "imputation" system, which gives shareholders a tax credit on dividend payments.

KPMG says the Chancellor could raise up to £10 billion through increases in personal taxation without breaking manifesto commitments. But the accountancy firm reckons it is unlikely the Government wanted to break the "spirit" of its tax promises. Minor changes could include the abolition of tax relief on private medical insurance and an increase in the inheritance tax rate from 40 per cent.

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4 June 1997



John Houlston with Dairy Crest's new range of football-theme cartoons

Net gains at Dairy Crest

STRONG sales of cheese and dairy spreads boosted profits at Dairy Crest last year, offsetting continued pressure on liquid milk prices and a fall in sales of dairy ingredients to food manufacturers and of milk delivered to the doorstep (Sarah Cunningham writes). Pre-tax profit for the

company, where John Houlston is chief executive and which floated last August and is still 60 per cent owned by milk producers, was £35.5 million in the 12 months to March 31. This was £4 million higher than the previous year. Earnings per share were 21.7p compared with 19.1p. The

final dividend of 6.64p (6.07p) gives a full-year dividend of 9.9p (9.1p).

Any benefits to Dairy Crest from a cut in milk prices were wiped out when other dairy companies immediately passed on the whole of the cut to retailers. Dairy Crest said it was forced to follow suit.

UKAV to use new purchase for bid

By Jason Nisse

UK ACTIVE VALUE, the aggressive investment fund run by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, has taken control of a small quoted timber company, John Mansfield, which it aims to use to make a takeover bid worth as much as £200 million.

The fund is paying £5 million for a 65.4 per cent stake in Mansfield. UKAV is paying 3p a share for the stake. Mansfield shares rose from 5 1/2p to 8p, giving UKAV an immediate profit of £3.3 million.

Mansfield will be used alongside UKAV's normal investment strategy, which often involves taking strategic stakes in underperforming companies and pressing for a management shake-up. Among the quoted companies that have faced the UKAV treatment are Schell, Signet, Kenwood and Greycoat.

Mr Treger said: "Having a quoted company gives us an extra tool for implementing our strategy for adding value in investments. A lot of institutions have said 'if you think this company needs a change, why don't you bid for it'. Well now we can if we want."

UKAV is looking at a couple of companies that Mansfield might take over. It has not decided whether it will buy a public or private group, or whether it will make an agreed or hostile bid. "It depends on what opportunities arise," said Mr Treger.

UKAV has raised more than £200 million in its UKAV Continuation Fund. It was hoping to raise a new fund, but this was put on hold until the Signet restructuring was completed. UKAV has made a profit of more than 100 per cent on its Signet investment.

Mr Treger, Mr Myerson and David Couley, their colleague, will join the board of Mansfield, with four of Mansfield's directors stepping down, though three of them will stay on to run the timber business.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Coal Products buys rival distributor

COAL PRODUCTS, the biggest manufacturer of smokeless fuel and the second largest solid fuel distributor, has completed the purchase of British Fuels, the largest solid fuel distributor, in a £32 million deal. It is thought that the takeover could lead to a flotation or trade sale within a year. Coal Products and British Fuels were created by management buyouts when the British Coal Corporation was privatised two years ago.

The purchase of British Fuels, which distributes coal, oil and gas to domestic, industrial and agricultural buyers, by Coal Products creates a company with a turnover of £650 million. David Foster, chief executive of the enlarged group, said: "The merger will provide a platform for the continuing development and expansion of a dynamic energy business." Speculation has been triggered that a flotation or trade sale could quickly follow the takeover as the venture capital backers will be keen to see a return on their investment.

Brent Spar bids received

SHELL UK said it has selected six contractors who have detailed nine bids to dispose of Brent Spar, the giant oil storage and loading buoy. "Now we've received the nine detailed bids, we can start the long process of comparing them with each other and the benchmark option of deep sea disposal," Eric Faulds, Shell's decommissioning manager, said. Mr Faulds said that the group would not announce contractors' cost estimates until Det Norske Veritas, the international certification, classification and advisory body, had compared bids.

Tesco plans call centre

TESCO, the supermarket group, has announced plans to create 300 jobs at a new 24-hour call centre. The facility, in Glasgow, will provide support for Tesco Personal Finance, the company's joint venture with the Royal Bank of Scotland. The call centre will be built in George Square and will be operational by July. Recruitment of the 300 staff is already under way. Brian Wilson, the Scottish Office Industry Minister, said he was delighted at the company's decision.

TLG lands £19m orders

TLG HAS won airfield lighting orders worth a total of £19 million in the Far East and Egypt. The orders include a £16.1 million contract from the Hong Kong airport authority for the supply, installation and commissioning of the airfield lighting system for the second runway at Hong Kong's new airport at Chek Lap Kok. The other two contracts involve a £2 million order for the second runway at Cairo airport and a £600,000 contract for lighting at three airports in Thailand.

R-R wins turbine orders

ROLLS-ROYCE, the UK aerospace and engineering company, said its Cooper Rolls joint venture with America's Cooper Cameron Corp has won orders for gas turbines worth more than \$150 million. Rolls-Royce said the 15 Coberra turbine packages would be installed in gas transmission and offshore gas installations in America, Canada, Slovakia and the North Sea. The Northern Border Pipeline Company ordered 11 of the units for delivery this autumn.

Toy Options advances

TOY OPTIONS raised pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £2.25 million in the six months to February 28 on sales up 23 per cent to £21 million. Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 7.36p, with the half-year dividend rising 20 per cent to 1.2p. Richard King, chairman, said: "The board is confident that the group's four trading companies provide the group with a solid base from which further growth, both in the domestic and international market, will be achieved for the foreseeable future."

French merger nearer

THE European Commission is today expected to approve the merger of Cie. de Suez and Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez, forming one of France's largest industrial companies. The new company, called Suez-Lyonnaise, has presented an acceptable solution to the only potential competition problem in the merger, involving waste management services in Belgium, by agreeing to sell its 49 per cent interest in PAGE, a waste management company.

Sharples makes £6.7m

CHRISTOPHER SHARPLES, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, yesterday made a profit of about £1.3 million and a paper gain of a further £5.4 million, after the successful flotation of a software company he co-founded, Royal Blue, supplier of City dealing software and general IT support, announced the placing of more than 6.8 million shares, mainly with institutions, at a price of 170p, valuing the whole company at about £46.7 million. Dealing should start on June 9.

Eurocopy's flat returns

EUROCOPY, the photocopier producer, blamed its failure to close takeover deals for flat profits at the halfway stage. The company, which made £2.44 million (£2.37 million) before tax in the six months to March 31, said it had been on the point of making several built-on acquisitions but had been forced to pull out at the due diligence stage each time. Its shares eased 2 1/2p to 64 1/2p. Earnings were 3.27p (3.21p) a share and an interim dividend of 0.93p (0.88p) is due on September 1.

Verdict on windfalls

THE market for furniture and carpets, worth about £9 billion last year, will grow faster than total retail sales this year and next, driven by windfall gains from building society flotations and the buoyancy of the housing market, according to a report today by Verdict, the retail consultants. It says the average windfall of £1,500 to £2,000 "equates neatly to the cost of a new three-piece suite or a carpet" but adds that consumer caution will ensure there is no repeat 1980s-style boom.

Enron loses court battle over North Sea contracts

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

ENRON was yesterday dealt another blow over North Sea gas contracts after a court said it must pay a collection of companies' fees, interest and costs. It could be forced to pay £100 million over the transportation of gas to Teesside.

The American power company that on Monday agreed to pay £275 million to BG, Phillips Petroleum and Agip over a high-priced contract for gas, said it may appeal. Kenneth Lay, chairman of Enron, said: "Enron always stands behind its contractual obligations, but we will also

protect the interests of our shareholders and customers."

The London Commercial Court ruled against Enron and in favour of the owners of the Central Area Transmission System (CATS), one of the largest North Sea gas transportation and processing networks. The owners include Amoco, which operates the system, BG, Amerasia Hess and Phillips. According to the judge the change in the price of gas was pivotal to the dispute between CATS and Teesside Gas Transportation Ltd, which is owned by Enron.

over the 15-year capacity reservation and transportation agreement between them.

Mr Justice Langley said: "I have little doubt that but for the fall in gas prices all of the matters of which the defendants complain could and would have been readily sorted out in the spirit of co-operation which existed before then."

Clive Fowler, managing director of Amoco UK Exploration Company, said: "Amoco and the other CATS owners are delighted... it is a vindication of our decision to initiate legal action."

Diamonds, gold and coal put shine on mining firm's year

Anglo American earnings surge

By Jon Ashworth



Julian Thompson: "pleased"

ANGLO AMERICAN, the South African mining company, turned in a sharp rise in earnings last year on the back of strong performances in diamonds, gold and coal. Anglo's black empowerment drive brought in further windfalls, underpinned by the disposal of a 35 per cent stake in Johannes Industrial Corporation to the National Empowerment Consortium. This and other disposals brought in £2.1 billion (£288 million) compared with £485 million (£66 million) the previous year.

Net earnings increased from £4.4 billion (£602 million) to £7.1 billion (£972 million) in the year to end-March. A final dividend of 540 cents per share makes 700 cents for the year, up by 23 per cent. Total net earnings for the year were 3,037 cents per share (£885 cents).

Julian Thompson, chairman of Anglo, described 1996 as "a pleasing year with significantly improved headline earnings", further expansion of our operations and, more recently, the completion of major black economic empowerment initiatives.

Associate companies, including De Beers and Minorco, lifted contributions to net income by 25 per cent. On the back of much-improved operating results from diamonds, gold and mining finance interests. Trading income was 36 per cent higher, reflecting the buoyant market conditions enjoyed by Anglo American Coal Corporation. Dividend income from general investments was 20 per cent higher on the back of increased distributions from diamond trading, and the first dividends from Anglo's 27.5 per cent stake in Lonrho.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Sale	Buy
Australia \$	2.25	2.09
Austria Sch	20.79	19.24
Belgium F	36.20	34.57
Canada \$	2.36	2.18
Cyprus Cyp	0.80	0.813
Denmark Kr	11.29	10.47
Finland Mk	8.98	8.28
France F	9.54	9.32
Germany Dm	2.98	2.75
Greece Dr	475	457
Hong Kong \$	13.40	12.27
Iceland Kr	127	107
Italy Lit	115	107
Israel Sh	5.30	5.25
Japan Yen	204.20	187.70
Malta	0.662	0.608
Netherlands Gld	3.366	3.379
New Zealand \$	2.53	2.30
Norway Kr	132.22	113.54
Portugal Esc	207.00	170.00
S Africa Rd	8.00	7.08
Spain Ptas	249.00	231.50
Sweden Kr	2.49	2.29
Switzerland Fr	24.60	22.145
Turkey Lira	24.60	22.145
USA \$	1.754	1.600

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Hot property will burn fingers



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

I was very public spirited of James Tuckey, the MEPC chief executive, to issue a warning yesterday that the property market is in danger of overheating. Sadly, there seems little likelihood of his words being heeded by those whose fingers, and arms, are most likely to be burned. With an awful inevitability, financiers are rushing to put their money into commercial property just as the top of the market approaches.

The Bank of England has a stab at monitoring property lending. It has good reason to do so, since the Bank's lifeboat has plenty of experience of being summoned to the rescue of financiers struggling to keep afloat among a sea of empty office blocks. But there are indications that the Bank's figures may seriously underestimate the scale of the cash currently flowing into new developments. In March, the Bank was taking comfort from the fact that property lending stood at £30 billion and was falling. Savills, a firm of property consultants which has little reason for scare-mongering, put the figure at a minimum of £47 billion, possibly £57 billion, and certainly growing.

The difference is down to definition. Savills based its figures on an analysis of the top 80 lenders. Of these, 23 do not contribute to the Bank's statistics. Savills' figures are swelled by the inclusion, for instance, of

lending by banks that have only representative offices in the UK and by the building societies which, in their search for excitement, are increasingly venturing into the dangerous world of commercial property.

In the wine bars of the West End, where sharp-suited property types gather, the sport is in trying to predict which of these generous lenders will be left with some expensive empty office space when shortage of supply turns to shortage of demand, as it most surely will.

After a few years of relative restraint, in which funding depended on the presence of a tenant, the plausible gentlemen who enjoy creating office blocks are succeeding in persuading financiers to back them in putting up speculative developments.

The last ones to start coming out of the ground will almost certainly be completed as the business cycle shudders to a halt. Rents that currently can be projected forward to show a satisfying return will prove to have been little more than illusory.

Those who doubt it should ask the Reichman brothers for a quick run through the figures that convinced them Canary

Wharf was a great idea. And if further proof were needed that the property market is getting ahead of itself, take a look at Embankment Place, the palace by Charing Cross station which Greycoat would dearly love to be rid of. Rumour has it that a buyer has appeared and is talking serious money for a building which will have no hope of showing rental growth for many years. The Sultan of Brunei is the name being mentioned.

The importance of Sir Ernest

Racal Electronics' advisers dressed it up with jargon, but it is hard to see any purpose in yesterday's strategy statement other than to hasten the break-up of the group. It is meaningless to talk about focusing on three main businesses while banging on about the need to "review all options" in order to

maximise value for shareholders. Cutting through the City speak, Racal's businesses are up for sale.

As the 71-year-old Sir Ernest Harrison made clear yesterday, Racal's guiding light for so many years is finally ready to retire, though he intends "to see the job through". The implied finality suggests he is aiming for something more than a modest uplift in the share price.

Only six weeks ago, David Elsbury, Racal's chief executive, dismissed the idea of the long-rumoured break-up. Now Goldman Sachs is looking at the data products business, and Racal is seeking advisers to look for deals for its telecommunications business. Perhaps Sir Ernest has just grown tired of explaining away the company's regular disappointments.

Racal's problem is that in telecoms, data, communications products and defence electronics, it is a small player in fast-

changing international industries. In telecoms, it will need a partner to provide the capital to take full advantage of the opportunities. The defence industry is consolidating rapidly. Racal claims to have restored the health and reputation of its data products arm, but has yet to produce the results to prove it and will continue to face much stronger American competition.

It is just about believable that Racal could link up with (say) AT&T in telecoms and with GEC or IIT in defence, and sell the data products business. But Racal would become little more than an investment holding company, lacking the rationale for an independent existence.

With its numerous businesses, dismembering Racal may prove trickier than it looks, and it will be difficult for Sir Ernest to repeat his spectacular successes with Vodafone and Chubb Security. However, don't bet against him — he reckons to have created about £10

billion of wealth for shareholders over the last 30 years.

At 235p, there is near-unanimity that Racal's shares are substantially undervalued. The telecoms business is growing well and a hunch says Racal's latest generation of data products will finally deliver decent results. The old man may still have one final blaze of glory.

Making a meal of the minimum wage

Professor George Bain will have won himself few friends in Government with his admission that a minimum wage will cost jobs, but he has certainly reassured industrialists that he will be taking a realistic approach to his task.

Peter Jarvis, the rumoured candidate for the role of chairman of the Low Pay Commission, did discuss the job with the Government, but would have had severe difficulties in being accepted by the trades unions.

Now the haggling will start. Most major businesses see little problem in coping with a minimum wage set at £3.50 or below, although employers' organisations will start with a much

lower suggestion and the unions will aim high. Yet the headline figure is just the starting point. Companies will need to know just what benefits can be taken into the equation. In the catering industry, never the most generous of employers, what value should be attached to the perk of meals on the job and a uniform? A small point but one that could have quite an impact on profits.

What flexibility will there be for the employment of trainees and holiday relief workers? The Government is wedded to its Welfare to Work scheme, but many youngsters are happy to gain work experience without being well remunerated if their CVs are going to show the benefit.

Those who run businesses must now accept the principle of a minimum wage and prepare to work with it, but they need to persuade Professor Bain that the difficulties could lie in the details.

Derring-duo

HOW brave of Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, the powers behind UK Active Value. The scourges of Signet, Greycoat, Kenwood et al. have taken control of timber merchant John Mansfield with the intention of turning it into a corporate deal doer. They had better deliver some impressive returns — otherwise someone might buy a 10 per cent stake, requisition an extraordinary meeting, and have the South Africans ousted from the board.

Vodafone seeks to build presence in overseas markets

By ERIC REGULY

VODAFONE, the largest mobile-phone company, yesterday said it would seek to convert its minority overseas investments into control positions as the international portfolio moves into profit.

The overseas operations reported their first operating profit of £14.4 million, in the year to March 31, against a loss of £27 million a year earlier and almost £46 million in 1994-95. The portfolio includes mobile-phone companies in France, Greece, South Africa, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Hong Kong.

Vodafone said: "It is our objective to increase the level of our shareholdings in non-

UK businesses, changing their status from investment to associate and then to subsidiary." The company recently took control of Panafon, the Greek mobile-phone company, and will boost its minority stake in SFR of France before the end of the year.

Customer growth in the overseas businesses exceeded growth in the core UK market for the first time. Vodafone's share of the overall market has slipped from 42.7 per cent two years ago to 40 per cent as competition has intensified, but it remains the market leader.

Under Chris Gent, chief executive, the company has pursued a policy of not chas-

ing low-margin, low-use customers. It attributes its slower growth rate to this.

Vodafone ended the year with 2.87 million customers, up 415,000. In the previous year, it recruited 633,000 new customers. The downward trend will continue, with 350,000 to 400,000 net new customers expected in the current year.

Revenue per subscriber is also on the wane in the UK, with an average of £427 in the year, down from £481 previously. The decline was expected and is the result of the growth in the lower-spending consumer market. Vodafone's traditional strength is among business customers, who use mobile phones more often.

The higher number of UK customers and the first contribution from the overseas operations were behind the 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £539 million, on turnover of £1.75 billion, up 25 per cent. Earnings per share were 11.89p against 10.15p. Profits were in line with City forecasts.

A final dividend of 2.45p is to be paid on August 15, making a total of 4.81p, up 20 per cent. The shares closed unchanged at 271½p.

Tempos, page 30



Chris Gent has forsaken the pursuit of low-margin, low-volume business

De La Rue hit by integration of Harrison

By OLIVER AUGUST

DE LA RUE, the security printer, yesterday reported a sharp and unexpected fall in pre-tax profits from £148 million to £106 million in the year to March 31. Its shares tumbled from 485p to 421½p.

The drop in profits was mainly because of exceptional charges of £15 million relating to the integration of Harrison & Sons, the printer that supplies the Royal Mail with most of its stamps. De La Rue bought debt-laden Harrison from Lonrho in February. Last month De La Rue announced that 400 jobs were to go at the banknote and security documents division.

Underlying pre-tax profits dropped to £120 million, about £7 million lower than analysts had predicted. In the main cash systems division the profit fell was caused by a change in the product mix during the year. Sales slipped 2.7 per cent to £267.8 million from £275.3 million.

The company declared it will increasingly divert profits from its banking machine operations to the development of smart cards and other cashless technology. Lord Limerick, chairman, said the company was looking forward to growth in the use of smart cards in the medium to long term. He said: "We do not expect such cashless systems

to have a significant effect on the steady growth of the world market for the foreseeable future, although the use of personal cheques will decline."

De La Rue said its 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot, the National Lottery operator, added £16 million to profits. Earnings per share fell to 35p (50.5p) and the full-year dividend rose to 24p (23.75p). An unchanged final of 16.5p will be paid on August 14.

Tempos, page 30

Respite for names on minimum asset level

By ADAM JONES

LLOYD'S of London has slowed changes to its capital base after traditional names argued that they were being forced out of the market.

Lloyd's said yesterday that it will raise the minimum assets required by most members from £250,000 to £350,000 by 2002, three years later than the original deadline.

Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), welcomed the extension: "It should enable most names to continue to underwrite." Those members who cannot meet the new requirement will be allowed to underwrite on a scaled-down basis. The revised plan, aimed at improving Lloyd's underlying security, allows names to continue using bank guarantees or letters of credit secured on their homes, but only if they pre-date December 31, 1994. The ALM said that "it still has some reservations" about this clause.

Increases in the amount of funds lodged at Lloyd's will be phased in over three rather than the proposed two years. However, individual members will eventually have to deposit 40 per cent of their premium limit, rather than the anticipated 37.5 per cent.

The overall minimum capital requirement, including assets retained by the member, will be raised to 50 per cent as expected. Individual members will now have to comply by 2000 rather than 1999.

NEWBURY Building Society

Head Office: 17 Bedford Square, Newbury RG14 4SL
Telephone: 01635 43676

Revised Interest Rates

The new rates of interest effective from 4 June 1997 on Newbury investment accounts are set out below:

	£10,000-£24,999	555	484
	£25,000-£49,999	565	494
	£50,000-£99,999	605	544
Instant Premium	£500-£4,999	380	289
	£5,000-£9,999	380	312
	£10,000-£24,999	430	344
	£25,000-£49,999	465	372
Monthly Monthly income	£250-£499	4.45	359
	£500-£999	(CAPY) 4.54	362
	£1,000-£19,999	4.94	365
	£20,000-£49,999	(CAPY) 5.05	368
	£50,000-£99,999	(CAPY) 5.15	374
	£100,000-£249,999	6.00	Te.Bamp
TESSA 95 & Follow-Up TESSA	£1-£499	3.20	229
Emergency Saver	£500-£999	3.80	289
	£10,000-£99,999	3.80	312
	£100,000-£24,999	4.30	344
	£25,000-£49,999	4.65	372
Junior Saver	£50,000-£99,999	4.85	384
	£100,000-£249,999	(CAPY) 4.39	(CAPY) 4.9
	£250,000-£499,999	1.60	1.28
Child up to 16 years			
Closed Accounts			
Power Account	3.45	278	
Power Literally Income	3.40	272	
Power Invest	2.60	210	
	£50,000-£99,999	3.80	
Power Plus	£100,000-£249,999	6.70	Te.Bamp
Interest rates are variable. Without UK Income Tax deducted. Current Annual Rate of Interest is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. If you are a non-resident, the interest rate is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. If you are a non-resident, the interest rate is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. If you are a non-resident, the interest rate is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. If you are a non-resident, the interest rate is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. If you are a non-resident, the interest rate is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. If you are a non-resident, the interest rate is 10.5% for the first £10,000 of UK Income. Tax @ 20% is deducted from the interest rate. 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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shield Diagnostics back in favour on bid talk

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the former high-flyer, was up and running again on talk of a bid from rival British Biotech.

The price ended the day 30p higher at 452.5p, with a total of 233,670 shares changing hands in a market where traders normally quote a price in 2000 at a time. There have been some big buyers of the stock in recent days and British Biotech is reckoned to have considered a link-up before now with Shield.

Whispers circulating around the Square Mile suggest British Biotech is prepared to offer £10 a share-plus. Such generous terms would give Shield a price tag of £193 million. That compares with the £169 billion that British Biotech, at 257.7p, is capitalised at.

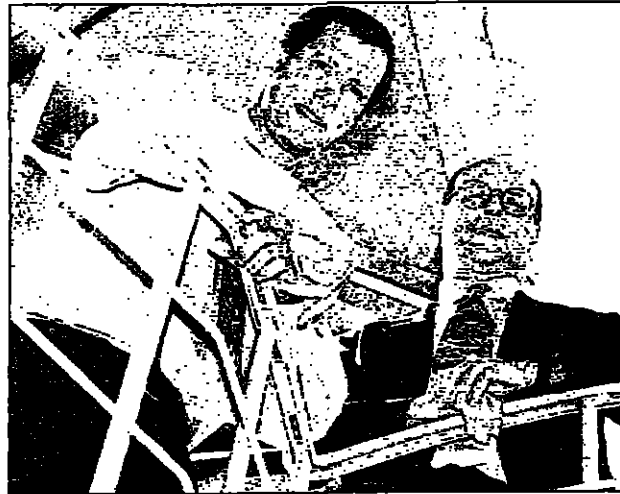
Shield sprang to prominence last year by AF Factor 12, a process designed to detect cardiovascular ailments in the early stages. It is thought to be cheaper and more efficient than existing processes. Brokers say the market for such a process has huge potential.

Earlier this year the Shield share price tumbled from a peak of 805p after it emerged that blood samples contained in a US study had been corrupted.

Share prices generally staged a dramatic, late revival with the help of a strong opening rally on Wall Street and firmer bond prices. At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was 38.6 down, reflecting an overnight fall in the Dow Jones industrial average and further gains by sterling against its main rivals. The index reduced the deficit to just 5.0 at 4,557.8, with a 965 million shares changing hands.

Halifax, this week's new-comer, finished lower on the day with a fall of 10p at 724.5p as turnover reached 21.4 million shares. This compares with an opening price on Monday of 770p. BZW has issued ten million covered call warrants at 97p.

Alan Sugar's decision to start giving money back to Amstrad shareholders lifted the shares 15p to a peak of 277p. Amstrad proposes to hand back £200 million of surplus funds and Viglen Technology, its subsidiary, will become the new holding company. BTR dipped 1p to 198p, matching its lowest level since 1991, after a dinner with



Stephen Wilson, left, and Michael Waller-Bridge may be about to go fundraising again at Tradepoint, down 20p

brokers on Monday night. They visited the group's Rockware glass and Brook Hansen powerdivisions. Little fresh news emerged to inspire brokers.

There was some much needed support for P&O, with the price adding 8p to 647p on the back of some positive comments from NatWest Securities, which is telling clients to "add" to their holdings.

Leadbrook added 5p to 244p ahead of a visit today to the group's gaming division. Earlier this week Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, upgraded its profit forecast. The market had to contend with several gloomy trading statements. Racal Electronics shrugged off the profits setback with the price, up 11p at 235p, underpinned by news of the proposed demerger.

Kalamazoo Computer jumped 13p to 92p after confirming that it had received a bid approach. The company warned the market that with 40 per cent of the shares tied up in a trust, it may prove difficult to make an offer.

Morrison Group stood out with a jump of 12p at 292p on the back of a 42 per cent leap in pre-tax profits last year to £16.2 million.

GIIT-EDGED: The strength of sterling and firmer European bond markets combined to drive gilts sharply higher in thin trading, with gains stretching by more than 1p.

EL, The Bank of England issued two small tranches of index-linked stock, which were immediately sold out.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt surged £27.32 to £113.32 as a total of 92,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put at £10.32 at £108.92, while Treasury 8 per cent 2020 was three ticks higher at £103.16.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average pulled ahead after opening lower, ignoring declines in the Nasdaq and the technology sector. By midday it was 46.36 points stronger at 7,335.76.

There was no such support for De La Rue, which lost 63p at 421p on news of its profits decline.

A slowdown in the rate of growth at Brammer left the shares nursing a fall of 48p at 631p.

Some impressive profit numbers from Cleveland Trust put 4p up on the shares at 110p. The industrial property developer, which owns the port of Boston, lifted profits by more than £300,000 to £1.96 million. David Haynes, chairman, says the current year has started well and he hinted that the group may be poised to make further acquisitions.

Speculation is mounting that AIM-listed Tradepoint, down 20p at 75p, is about to ask shareholders to dig deep into their pockets again for an extra £1 million. The loss-making company, which is a rival to the London stock market, is said to be asking for the money as an alternative to obtaining long-term finance, Michael Waller-Bridge and Stephen Wilson, directors of the company, had been hoping to strike a deal to obtain further finance before last weekend's deadline expired.

High Street sales arrived early, with the FT-SE 350 retailers general price index up 0.1p at 2450. The FT-SE all-share index (rebased) was 0.1p higher at 1900.

John David Sports continued to reel from the news it had failed to shift certain lines of stock which would impact on margins. The price fell 21p to 350p, stretching the two-day loss to 80p. It also hurt other sportswear retailers with JJB Sports down 19p at 473p, and Blacks Leisure 47p at 471p.

Oasis Stores tumbled 73p to 267p after warning the market that sales had fallen short of expectations. During the past couple of months directors of the company have sold shares worth more than £5 million. John Richards, retail analyst at NatWest Securities, says the fall in the shares of Oasis and John David Sports will be seen as a healthy correction.

"It is a conspicuous problem that these companies have brought upon themselves by tying up so much of their stock with limited brands".

Nike, the sportswear supplier, has already warned it will fail to meet its original forecast. "Nike could not sustain that degree of dominance", added Richards.

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TEMPUS

Frost bite only temporary

AMID the fuss over Halifax's debut, a chill wind blew through the banking sector. Most of the price falls can be attributed to technical factors — funds liquidating positions to pay for Halifax shares. More fundamental are whispers about the Government's July Budget, and concerns about tax changes prompted at least one company to yesterday announce a revised dividend payment. The notion appears to be, pay out now or lose the tax credit.

In theory, the Government wants to wean the corporate sector off distribution and encourage investment of retained earnings. However, abolishing ACT and the corresponding tax credit will have little effect on some of the more obvious offenders. Among low tax-paying companies it could encourage even greater windfalls. Many utilities that

came to the market with built-in tax shelters have sought to avoid paying extra tax, in the form of ACT, by classifying payouts to shareholders as capital repayments. Remove ACT and the tax problem disappears, leaving the door open to more windfalls from utilities.

But the chance of seeing a stock market favouring high-risk cyclical industrial shares looks slender at the moment. The earnings outlook is fair, but growth rates will inevitably shrink as the independent Bank of England sets sail for the land of almost-nil inflation. With an RPI of 2 per cent, earnings growth of 6 per cent becomes an achievement. Meanwhile, the banks will continue to thrive, throwing off excess capital and whittling down their bad-debt ratios just as they close their branches. Whatever the Government's agenda, the financial stocks could still be the winners.

De La Rue

DE LA RUE's cosy world has disappeared, transformed by political changes and new technology. There is no longer any security in banknotes and with the profits from smartcards still elusive, De La Rue's share price should remain erratic.

On the political front, De La Rue is suffering a backlash from its great success during the early 1990s. At the time, the eastern European countries who had just escaped communism all wanted new banknotes and modern banking equipment. This led to a profits boom which has run its course.

De La Rue's bosses complain with some justification about the "accident-prone" label. Windfalls are just that and De La Rue cannot order a rerun. But on the technology front, the accusation is

more plausible. Smartcards have yet to replace cash even in developed economies. The disappointing trial of the Mondex card in Swindon has shown as much. De La Rue is now turning down its optimism on quick profits from plastic.

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Fossil warning has unions digging deeper to boost recruitment

David Blunkett will today give his first speech as Education and Employment Secretary to a mainstream trade union audience when he talks to the annual conference of the GMB in Brighton, with jobs and welfare to work as his key themes. Labour's election is bringing the trade unions back in from the cold. John Monks, the TUC general secretary, is back in Downing Street. Labour's new low-pay chief, Professor George Bain, the London Business School principal, is in place on the minimum wage.

But Labour in government will not solve the unions' continuing problems for them. As John Edmonds, the GMB leader, said: "Let us enjoy the election victory. But let us not wallow in it. It must be a spur to effort, not an excuse for relaxation."

When Mr Blunkett has left town, the union's traditional seaside jamboree will go into private session — to discuss its finances, its structures and its prospects. In common with most other trade unions, these do not look rosy for the GMB. Union membership and finances have declined sharply since Labour was last in power. In 1979, overall union membership stood at more than 13 million, and rising. Now it is seven million, and falling.

At a Question Time-style event at the GMB on Monday evening, chaired by Vincent Hanna, the broadcaster, union members uneasy about the Blair administration voiced their concerns about why the Government was not doing more — more on the minimum wage, more on union

recognition. Angela Eagle, the Environment Minister and a former union researcher, batted the party line: government for the whole country, not particular groups; fairness not favours.

But the stark reality of the unions' position, and the reason why they will have only a fair rather than a disproportionate influence on the new Government, is spelled out plainly, almost brutally, in an internal GMB strategy study on the changing shape of the UK labour market, and the unions' chances in the face of them.

The unpublished paper, *Changing Job Patterns and GMB Recruitment Prospects*, says plainly that since 1979, when Labour was last in power, "the UK labour force has grown by more than two million. But GMB membership has nearly halved".

Even on the "probably exaggerated" membership estimates then of around 1.4 million, with the true membership probably closer to 1.2 million, the decline has been shatter-

ing: membership at the start of this year was down to around 715,000.

The changing pattern of employment has hit us hard," the study admits. Falls in manufacturing jobs, the privatisation of the utilities, the union being "poorly placed" in the race to recruit in sectors such as banking and insurance all took their toll.

The document says: "Were it not for the traditional GMB strength in public services, and the relatively stable share that non-marketed services such as local government and the NHS have taken in total employment since 1979, GMB membership might have sunk like a stone."

Even after taking account of the membership boosts that mergers with six separate unions have given it since 1979, the precise figures are startling: a 45 per cent fall in construction membership, a 50 per cent drop in primary industries such as coal and power and a 64 per cent plunge in manufacturing — down

from 870,000 to just 315,000. Even in public services, the area of some strength, the drop has been 29 per cent.

Only in business and miscellaneous services has there been an increase — up from 5,000 in 1979 to 47,000 now.

Even the advent of a Labour Government looks unlikely to change the expected pattern of jobs, and so of union membership. As the GMB document says: "The forecasts are that the labour force will grow by a further one million over the next ten years. Clearly the expanding labour force is no guarantee of growth in GMB membership." The study draws an employment forecast compiled by the widely respected Institute for Employment Research at Warwick University to look at where job growth is likely to be, and what the unions can do to keep up with the trends.

GMB leaders are trying to focus the union on recruitment, mirroring

the pattern deployed with considerable success by unions in the United States. Andy Stern, of the SEIU public service union in America, impressed the GMB conference this week with talk of how in a declining market, his union has doubled its size since the mid-1980s.

Stern's union now spends half its total budget on recruitment. He says: "Decisions you make about organising are far more important than the general election decision on May 1. It is no good waiting for the pendulum to swing back towards unions; you must get out there and do it."

After 18 years without a Labour Government, Britain's unions are unlikely to dismiss so brusquely Labour's election victory. But they are now targeting recruitment: the GMB is setting aside £500,000 this year — just over 1 per cent of the union's spending — for a recruitment fund to finance new officials on short-term contracts to boost membership.

The GMB has a long way to go — and, on these issues, it is better placed than others. As Andy Stern says: "Organising is about survival. It is a question of fission or change." Or as John Edmonds says: "After the Labour victory, the whole of Britain expects a resurgence of trade unionism. We must not disappoint them." But he adds: "We have a future to make — and we have to make it ourselves."

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor



ANTHONY HARRIS

Emu: how the Americans don't see it

Lionel Jospin has done something more startling than winning an election against the expectations of the London market: he has made American business fleeingly aware of the EMU project. It is worried not about a hard euro, but a soft one — known here as a "marshmallow euro". This fear surfaced after the first round of the French elections: a soft euro, as the *Journal of Commerce* reported on its front page, might give European exporters an edge over the Americans. Hardly panic in the streets, admittedly: indeed, I doubt if the industrialists who were quoted had given the matter a thought until some bright spark at the *Journal* posed the question. But at least it made the front page for a day.

Now, with Jospin's big win, there is growing hope that EMU may not happen at all. And if it does, it will surely come unstuck, because the bank computers that must make it work will have crashed. The US, in other words, is obsessed with the computer 2000 problem. This glitch may be more intractable here than in Europe, because many American mainframes are older. They were programmed in the days when memory was expensive, and it is now very hard to find the programming veterans who can remember how the old, compact system worked. Some are enjoying an unexpectedly lucrative retirement.

But even when EMU looked workable, the great project rated hardly even a down-page mention. It was regarded as a purely European concern: and the Americans are again getting comfortable with the idea of Euro-sclerosis. If Mercedes-Benz, the epitome of Teutonic thoroughness, opens a plant in Alabama — of all red-neck states — as it did last week, then operating conditions on the Continent must be pretty terrible. Britain, they are aware, is rather different, after Mrs Thatcher's Reaganite revolution: and Tony Blair is fascinating in his own right. Hey, they have their own Bill Clinton! But the rest, as seen from here, is history.

["Here" because fate brought me briefly back to Washington during the new French revolution.]

Washington itself, of course, is a world apart from world known everywhere else as "inside the Beltway": here politics — even foreign politics — is the only topic. The indefatigable Fred Bergsten's Institute for International Economics has addressed the insiders in a whole series of briefs and seminars. They have been trying hard to stifle their yawns; but they are still hardly engaged with the arguments. In general the foreign policy wonks are in favour: if EMU helps to unite Europe, as its proponents claim, it must be a Good Thing (even if Americans do remember a terrible civil war within one currency zone). Professional economists are less impressed: "They're crazy!" one snorted. "How can you have a currency without a Government?" Well, there was the cowrite shell, but it is a good question, as Mr Jospin would no doubt agree.

One aspect that nobody mentions, for or against, is the mainly French idea of a strong euro to "stand up to the dollar". For Americans the dollar is simply a fact. It may sometimes be a problem: but a threat? The idea seems absurd, even to an international economist who is quite euro-friendly. "It is simply a non-issue," he told me. Indeed, it is. In this country, Donald McDougall wrote a book on the dollar shortage just as it was becoming a dollar glut, and took years to live it down. But the French idea of the defi American, which is of almost exactly the same vintage, seems to have discovered the secret of life after death. Odd, that.

P.S. But not, perhaps, as odd as the first thing I heard on returning: John Major warning that a soft euro would be at the mercy of the markets. Can he really imagine, after nine crisis-ridden years in office, that any currency is not at the mercy of the markets? The EMU idea seems to breed fantasy even in its opponents.

Sugar the reluctant computer guru is returning to his roots

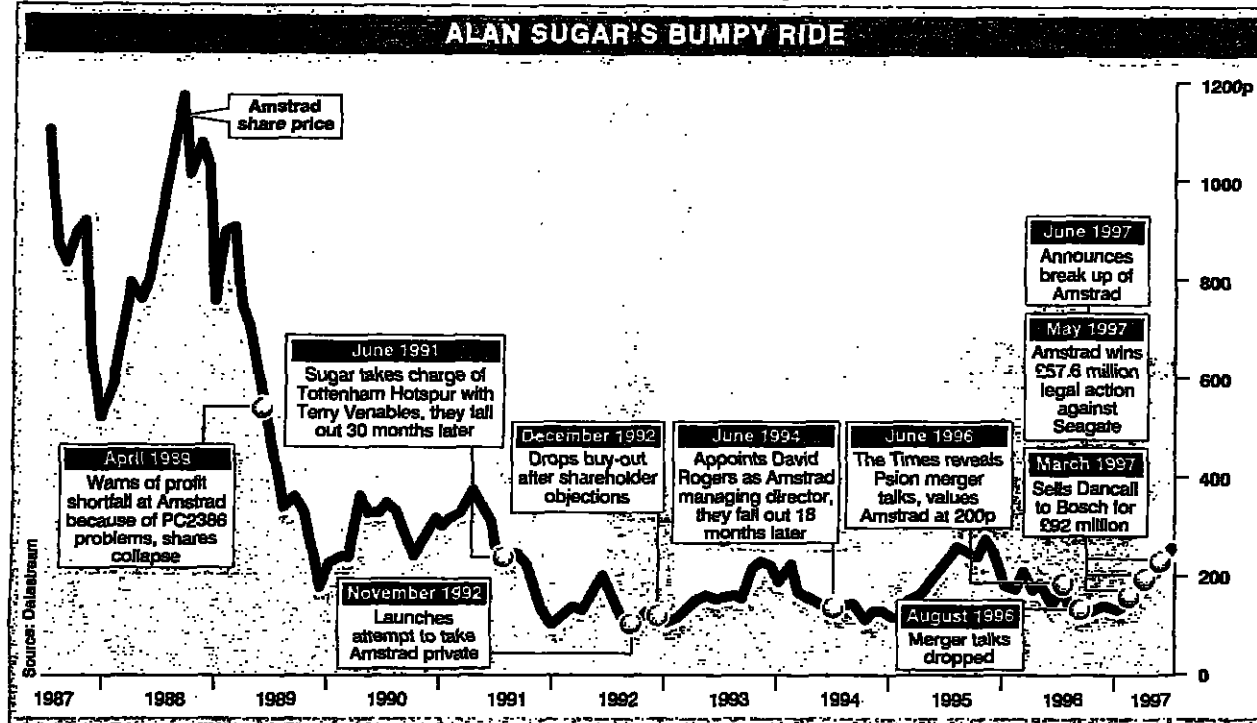
Jason Nissé
on a radical restructuring that will see the Amstrad name dropped

Alan Sugar has never been comfortable with technology. The supposedly typical Essex man (though he was born in Hackney 50 years ago) started by selling car aerials out of the back of a van. He epitomised the 1980s Thatcher go-go culture, bought Tottenham Hotspur at the height of his fortune and recently became a convert to new Labour, being appointed Tony Blair's ambassador to schools, educating the new generation on business. En route he has amassed a fortune of more than £200 million.

But Sugar was always a reluctant computer guru. His idea of making cheap word processors mushroomed in the late 1980s into a billion pound business selling personal computers. Before the faults started appearing in his PC2386 and PC2386 units, Amstrad had two thirds of the home computer market in the UK and was making profits of £160 million a year. Now Sugar is shedding the technology and going back to his roots.

His technophobia was never better shown than in the BBC documentary about Sugar two years ago. Challenged by a minion to set up a company-wide e-mail system, he was dismissive. When pressed, Sugar turned on the man, saying: "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll send you your salary by electronic mail."

Yesterday's deal was Sugar's vindication. A year ago,



when *The Times* revealed that Sugar was talking to David Potter of Psion about a merger, the City was full of praise for the innovation of Psion and wondered why it wanted Amstrad. The merger, which would have involved Psion taking over Amstrad for £250 million in shares, fell apart. When asked what he would do, Sugar said he'd stick back his hair and change his name to Dan Wagner, a reference to the youthful boss of the high-flying MAID. What he actually did was set about vindicating his position.

Sugar sold Dancall, the Danish mobile-phone business he bought out of receiver-ship for £93 million, to Bosch. The deal surprised analysts, who had the business valued at less than £50 million. At the time he commented: "I always said it was worth a lot. No one believed me." He then won his legal action against Seagate, maker of the disk drives for the ill-fated Amstrad personal

computers, and is now seeking a similar settlement from the other supplier, Western Digital. "Who knows where this company would have been if this problem had not happened," was Sugar's view. Now he can hand out £163 million of cash, float Viglen for £140 million ("I've never had anything to do with the management that why it's done so well," says Sugar), pursue the legal actions in a separate trust and concentrate on turning tiny Betacom into the new Amstrad. The overall value of the restructured company is about £400 million, making Sugar's 34 per cent holding worth about £140 million.

Better than getting the money — and Sugar believes that making money is the ultimate measure of a good businessman — the deal proves Sugar was right. "I'd like to thank BZW and Charterhouse Bank for advising their clients so well, they've done me a great fa-

vour," he said. BZW and Charterhouse were the merchant banks acting for Psion. Sugar has always believed that the market undervalued Amstrad. In 1992, frustrated by the company's low rating, he attempted to take it private. A shareholder ginger group led by Gideon Fiegl, a small investor from north London, blocked the deal. It took three-and-a-half years for the share price to recover to what Sugar was prepared to offer.

Sugar has never been one to shy away from publicity. He drives a Rolls-Royce with the number plate AMSI. He has a 160ft yacht, *Louisiana*, which is available on charter at £107,000 a week. His property interests include the building that houses the Hard Rock Cafe in Mayfair.

Nor is he one to shy away from an argument. Sugar speaks his mind about his business, often causing em-

barrassment and ruffled feathers — as he did this year when he claimed prematurely that he was about to be given a large contract by BSKYB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. As chairman of Spurs he is often quoted on the level of player wages or the loyalty of foreign imports, famously saying he would use the shirt worn by former Spurs star Jürgen Klinsmann to wash his car.

Asked yesterday if he would be giving any of his cash to Spurs, he said: "They've got enough already." He then broke off from Amstrad to launch into a diatribe about Teddy Sheringham, the Spurs striker and scorer of England's second goal against Poland on Saturday, who had the temerity to ask for a transfer. "He can go if he wants," Sugar said.

For Sugar loyalty means agreeing with the boss. He has always run businesses himself

and when he brought in people to work with him, it has ended in tears. The most famous falling-out was with Terry Venables, the football manager, who joined with Sugar to buy Spurs. When Sugar fired Venables in May 1993, the legal fall-out took the two into the High Court, with accusations of "bungs" and problems with transfers, and has ended with Venables being investigated by the Department for Trade and Industry. Sugar also recruited David Rogers from Philips as managing director. The BBC documentary showed the two in an uneasy relationship, and Rogers left 18 months after joining.

Now Norman Becker, the chief executive of Betacom, faces Sugar changing from part-time to full-time chairman. Sugar sees Betacom as an early-1980s Amstrad — a low-cost manufacturer of cheap consumer electronics, nothing fancy, mind, and nothing too high-tech. Betacom will take on the Amstrad brand name and, in time, may change its name to Amstrad as well. The only worry for Becker is that he will find himself attempting to run a company where Sugar is chairman, the largest shareholder and with little other than a few opinionated footballers and a legal action to distract him — not exactly a marriage made in heaven.

record set by the *USS Triton*, a nuclear submarine that completed the voyage underwater in 83 days in 1960. The C&W speedboat leaves from Gibraltar next April under the command of Jack Wisart, the sort of gonzo type whose idea of fun is to walk to the North Pole or row solo across the Atlantic. Dick Brown, C&W's American chief executive, told an admiring audience that he might go along for the ride, or at least part of it. He later admitted privately that he would be doing nothing of the kind. No thank you, sir, not Mrs Brown's little boy. Beneath that macho veneer beats the heart of a trembling chicken.

MARTIN WALLER



Dick Brown: taking a leaf out of Richard Branson's book

Peak practice

A TRULY towering achievement for Mark Warham, a director of corporate finance at Schroders. He has become the 30th Briton to reach the summit of Mount Everest, having taken ten weeks' leave of absence from a very understanding merchant bank for his second attempt. Apparently there are virtually package tours these days that take unrelated groups of experienced climbers to the top. His 11-strong team included a Mexican civil servant, some Icelanders and a Yorkshire farmer, among others. Each paid about \$30,000.



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"It's only been possible for people like me over the past five or ten years," he says. "The technology is amazing, particularly communications. It's a far cry from the 1950s. If you get good weather, it's challenging, but it's not like walking on the Moon."

"I was very lucky, I had the most fantastic weather on summit day, having had awful weather in May — not a cloud in the whole of Asia as far as I could see."

● SHOULD you be planning a serious pensions heist, this week looks a good time for it. I have invitations to not one but two high-powered conferences that seem to require the personal attendance of virtually every City watchdog. We kick off today with Howard Davies, soon to be head of the Securities and Investments Board, opening a three-day international derivatives conference in London's Inter-Continental Hotel. Across town at the Portman, Richard Farrant, head of the Securities and Futures Authority, and chairman Nick Durlacher will be joined by Michael Blair, QC, from the SIB, and others from Imro at a conference on the future of financial regulation.



You also get Helen Liddell, the Treasury Minister. Seems a pity to sit inside when the weather's so nice.

Missing face

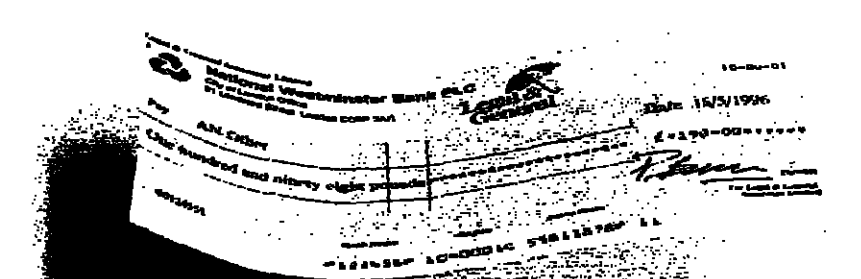
OFF to the Royal Academy, for the glittering summer exhibition preview that Guinness, as sponsor, puts on each year. An amazing turnout of the great and good: Ken Clarke, Peter Lilley, even Jack Cunningham. Labour's heritage spokesman during the election, when his fondness for and grasp of the fine arts earned him the sobriquet the Member for Philistine East. Sir Anthony Tennant, one-time chairman of Guinness, was there — he is now chairman of the Royal Acad-

emy, it seems. And there is a good turnout of the soon to be merged Guinness and Grand Metropolitan boards. There is, though, one Guinness director invited but missing. What can have kept Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH and now trying to kick the Guinness-GrandMet merger apart? "He's never been," insists a source. "Well, maybe once."

● THE really rather charming Mary Brister, the Daily Telegraph's European business editor, is the latest experienced City journalist to take off into public relations. Since last summer she has been working on a freelance basis, most recently helping the Action Centre for Europe, a business think-tank, with a report on the single market due out tomorrow. This appears to have been the last straw in two decades of journalism. She is joining Dewe Rogerson as an international director. "I'm not going into PR," she says. Pause. "Well, yes, I am going into PR."

Overboard

CABLE and Wireless, taking a page from the Richard Branson book of corporate promotion, is spending millions on sponsoring a one-off effort to break the round-the-world



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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 Low Company				Price	±%	1996	1997 Low Company				Price	±%	1996
164	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	171	171	12.00	12.00	12.00	172	172	12.00	12.00
165	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	173	173	12.00	12.00	12.00	174	174	12.00	12.00
166	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	175	175	12.00	12.00	12.00	176	176	12.00	12.00
167	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	177	177	12.00	12.00	12.00	178	178	12.00	12.00
168	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	179	179	12.00	12.00	12.00	180	180	12.00	12.00
169	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	181	181	12.00	12.00	12.00	182	182	12.00	12.00
170	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	183	183	12.00	12.00	12.00	184	184	12.00	12.00
171	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	185	185	12.00	12.00	12.00	186	186	12.00	12.00
172	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	187	187	12.00	12.00	12.00	188	188	12.00	12.00
173	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	189	189	12.00	12.00	12.00	190	190	12.00	12.00
174	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	191	191	12.00	12.00	12.00	192	192	12.00	12.00
175	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	193	193	12.00	12.00	12.00	194	194	12.00	12.00
176	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	195	195	12.00	12.00	12.00	196	196	12.00	12.00
177	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	197	197	12.00	12.00	12.00	198	198	12.00	12.00
178	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	199	199	12.00	12.00	12.00	200	200	12.00	12.00
179	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	201	201	12.00	12.00	12.00	202	202	12.00	12.00
180	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	203	203	12.00	12.00	12.00	204	204	12.00	12.00
181	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	205	205	12.00	12.00	12.00	206	206	12.00	12.00
182	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	207	207	12.00	12.00	12.00	208	208	12.00	12.00
183	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	209	209	12.00	12.00	12.00	210	210	12.00	12.00
184	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	211	211	12.00	12.00	12.00	212	212	12.00	12.00
185	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	213	213	12.00	12.00	12.00	214	214	12.00	12.00
186	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	215	215	12.00	12.00	12.00	216	216	12.00	12.00
187	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	217	217	12.00	12.00	12.00	218	218	12.00	12.00
188	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	219	219	12.00	12.00	12.00	220	220	12.00	12.00
189	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	221	221	12.00	12.00	12.00	222	222	12.00	12.00
190	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	223	223	12.00	12.00	12.00	224	224	12.00	12.00
191	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	225	225	12.00	12.00	12.00	226	226	12.00	12.00
192	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	227	227	12.00	12.00	12.00	228	228	12.00	12.00
193	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	229	229	12.00	12.00	12.00	230	230	12.00	12.00
194	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	231	231	12.00	12.00	12.00	232	232	12.00	12.00
195	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	233	233	12.00	12.00	12.00	234	234	12.00	12.00
196	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	235	235	12.00	12.00	12.00	236	236	12.00	12.00
197	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	237	237	12.00	12.00	12.00	238	238	12.00	12.00
198	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	239	239	12.00	12.00	12.00	240	240	12.00	12.00
199	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	241	241	12.00	12.00	12.00	242	242	12.00	12.00
200	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	243	243	12.00	12.00	12.00	244	244	12.00	12.00
201	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	245	245	12.00	12.00	12.00	246	246	12.00	12.00
202	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	247	247	12.00	12.00	12.00	248	248	12.00	12.00
203	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	249	249	12.00	12.00	12.00	250	250	12.00	12.00
204	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	251	251	12.00	12.00	12.00	252	252	12.00	12.00
205	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	253	253	12.00	12.00	12.00	254	254	12.00	12.00
206	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	255	255	12.00	12.00	12.00	256	256	12.00	12.00
207	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	257	257	12.00	12.00	12.00	258	258	12.00	12.00
208	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	259	259	12.00	12.00	12.00	260	260	12.00	12.00
209	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	261	261	12.00	12.00	12.00	262	262	12.00	12.00
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211	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	265	265	12.00	12.00	12.00	266	266	12.00	12.00
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222	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	287	287	12.00	12.00	12.00	288	288	12.00	12.00
223	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	289	289	12.00	12.00	12.00	290	290	12.00	12.00
224	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	291	291	12.00	12.00	12.00	292	292	12.00	12.00
225	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	293	293	12.00	12.00	12.00	294	294	12.00	12.00
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240	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	323	323	12.00	12.00	12.00	324	324	12.00	12.00
241	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	325	325	12.00	12.00	12.00	326	326	12.00	12.00
242	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	327	327	12.00	12.00	12.00	328	328	12.00	12.00
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245	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	333	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	334	334	12.00	12.00
246	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	335	335	12.00	12.00	12.00	336	336	12.00	12.00
247	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	337	337	12.00	12.00	12.00	338	338	12.00	12.00
248	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	339	339	12.00	12.00	12.00	340	340	12.00	12.00
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253	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	349	349	12.00	12.00	12.00	350	350	12.00	12.00
254	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	351	351	12.00	12.00	12.00	352	352	12.00	12.00
255	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	353	353	12.00	12.00	12.00	354	354	12.00	12.00
256	333	12.00	12.00	12.00	355	355	12.00	12.00	12.00	356	356	12.00	12.00
257</													

as CAGR (Compound Annual Return)
vehicle price. . No significant data
age deducted from capital. @ Est

PROPERTY BRIEFING

THE CRUNDELS An award-winning vineyard in the Cotswolds, Worcestershire, is for sale through the Worcester office of Hamptons at a guide price of £325,000. The house was built in 1904 and has a separate flat. There are also outbuildings, including a garage, a tennis court, a swimming pool, a vineyard, of about five acres, was created in 1979.

A NURSERY and flower centre, in a castle in the Cotswolds, is for sale through the Worcester office of Hamptons at a guide price of £450,000. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle.

WILLOW has a large house in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle.

KNIGHT FRANK is a leading estate agent in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle. The property is situated in the Cotswolds, in the parish of Painsford, and is a 15th-century castle.

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HERITAGE

Desecration or revelation?
William the Conqueror's castle gets a concrete makeover



FILM

Gay backstage life in a dance company is the subject of Martin Sherman's *Alive and Kicking*

THE TIMES ARTS



RISING STAR

At 16, Dorry Hughes is fast advancing on the path to becoming a composer



TOMORROW

Luc Besson's futuristic epic *The Fifth Element* reviewed, along with the week's other big releases

HERITAGE: A furious dispute has erupted over an addition to a medieval castle in Normandy. Marcus Binney reports

William the concreter

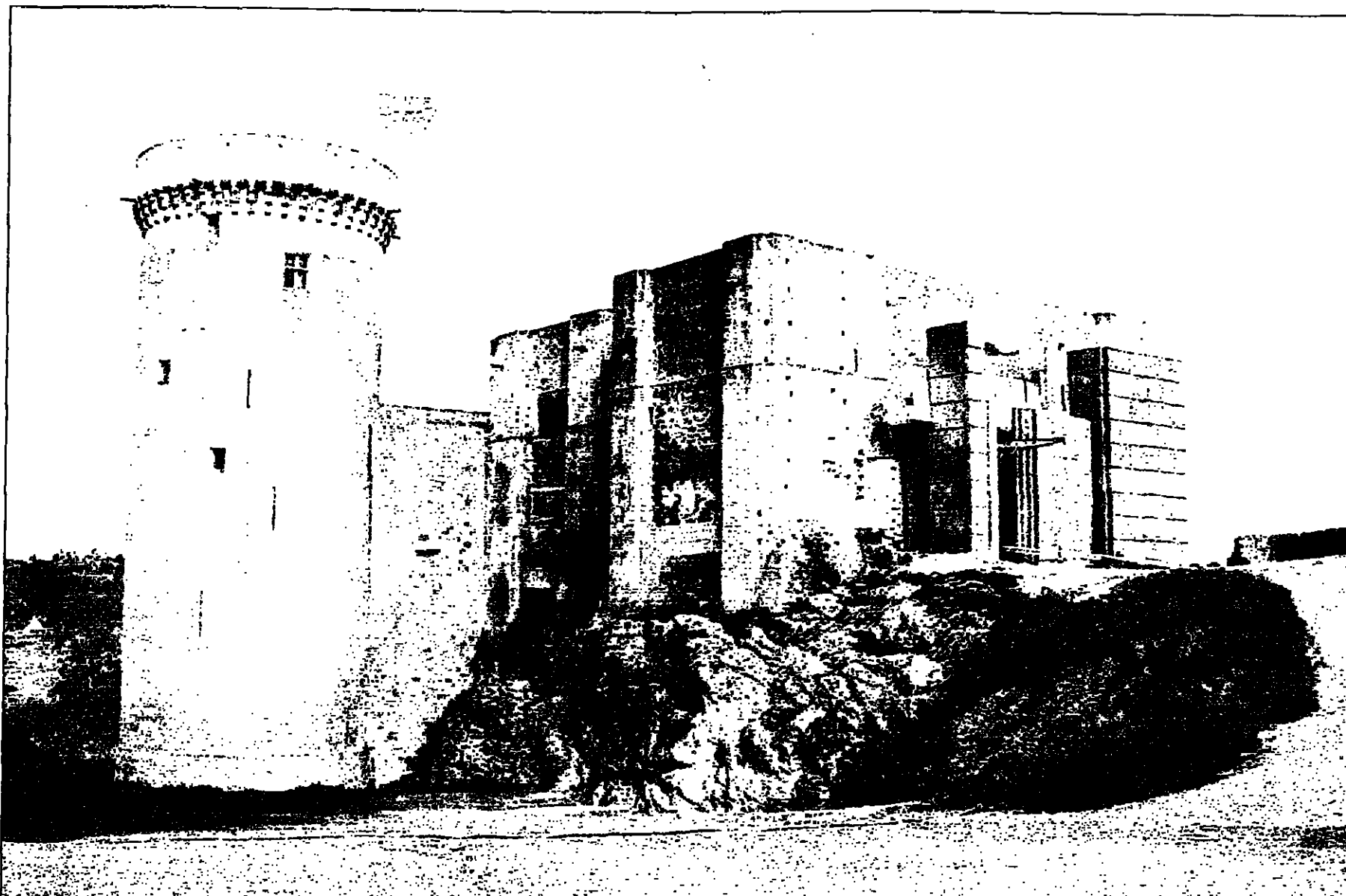
It is the most controversial restoration of the decade. William the Conqueror's mighty castle at Falaise in Normandy has a new barban in dark concrete and stainless steel, and a roof of whitest Teflon. If Jocelyn Stevens had done such a thing to a Norman keep in the care of English Heritage, his head would have been demanded on a platter by the president of the Society of Antiquaries — and delivered. Today the keep at Falaise

could be a set for *Star Wars*, with Darth Vader as its new liege lord. French intellectuals are incensed. The architecte-en-chef entrusted with the works, Bruno Decaris, I was told, had been transferred from Calvados to new duties in Burgundy. The society Aimez Falaise has issued proceedings against him for not obtaining planning permission for the works: it seems that the Commission supérieure des monuments historiques thought it was exempt from such trifles.

Our very own Edward Impey, from the Tower of London, has sallied resoundingly into the fray, savaging Decaris for building a "grosses Blockhaus" and treating the keep not as an historic monument but as "a means of personal expression", and introducing glass and steel "airport style" inside. Falaise is one of the great successions of near-impenetrable stone donjons or keeps erected by the Conqueror and his immediate successors to secure their Norman and English territories. The donjon at Falaise was actually built in 1123 by William's younger son Henry I of England, within his father's fortified enclave.

Since Henry IV of France took the castle in 1590, the keep has stood a gutted shell, with bare walls ascending to the sky, latterly inaccessible to all. Decaris's approach is a simple one — to recreate the main internal spaces of the Norman keep, using visibly modern materials. The walls of these Norman keeps were so massively thick that at upper levels they were threaded through with passages and stairs. Often you can only glimpse these from the ground. At Falaise you now have the run of them.

'The authorities should stand by their architect'



William the Conqueror's castle with Bruno Decaris's modern keep: "It had to be done in an abstract way, for we knew no details and I did not want to copy or invent"

According to Charles Bowden, the English guide working at the castle, the formidable surprise of the new interior enraptures many visitors. Step through the high-level Norman doorway and you are walking on glass. Adults inch forward. Children jump. A transparent modern-day parquet *à la française* dramatically reveals how high above the ground the great Norman hall stood.

Decaris explains: "The floors had disappeared, the whole structure was difficult to understand." He felt it was important to put back a roof, so the medieval windows play their proper role, with deep reveals glowing as a shaft of sun shines through. The new lightweight roof is a fibreglass structure covered in Teflon. "I showed the model to a French engineer who said it couldn't be done." So Decaris went to the late Peter Rice (the RIBA gold medalist), who worked it out in a trice.

Decaris wanted to express the keep's dual role as fortress and palace. "I did this with materials — grey for the defensive elements and blue for the inside of the room. It had to be done in an abstract way, for we knew no details and I did not want to copy or invent," he says. Window shutters and large hinges are traditionally proportioned but in galvanised steel. The

windows are not leaded lights, but large sheets of clear glass etched with a simple geometric pattern. A reconstructed spiral staircase now has a plain tubular bronze handrail. Lamps on the stairs are shaped like flaming torches but inset with electric bulbs. In the slit windows, he has enraged purists by introducing a simple metal gauze. "We had a problem with birds. Without the gauze the windows would have been filthy in a few weeks."

One big innovation is under-floor heating, allowing the keep to be open and used for events all the year. "This last winter we had periods of minus 10C and the castle was very pleasant inside," he says. The great French King Philip Augustus, who took Falaise in 1204, five years after the death of his arch-rival Richard the Lionheart, added a new, still higher defensive circular tower beside the keep. This was clearly a place of last resort as it had no independent outside access.

Thanks to Decaris you now ascend all the way to the top. He has added a new parapet above the machicolations. "It's two metres high as I did not want the heads of the public to be visible from below, so we have made small portholes to open up the view," he says. Look down between the machicolations, and yet again you are standing on air — on a metal

grille, 100ft or more above the ground, ready to rain missiles or boiling oil on the attackers below. The fiercest criticism centres on the new, dark grey barban or *avant-corps*. Decaris came to study Norman keeps in England, notably Castle Rising. "Barbicans were complicated internally, intended to disorientate an attacker. I have designed it to give a sense of its defensive purpose," he says.

In 1985 he was asked by the then Mayor of Falaise to produce "a very strong project". In the Mairie the town clerk told me that he hoped that the keep would do for Falaise what the pyramid has done for the Louvre. Like it or not, Decaris has been true to his brief. I think the authorities in Paris

should have the guts to stand by their architect and finish the job properly. The dark concrete is actually the same tone as the weathered stone at the base of the keep. Instead panic has put a halt on all work. The new drawbridge (galvanised steel of course) is not working and is pathetically weighted down with a rough concrete block. The lift for the disabled, designed to fit within the barban, has yet to be installed. Because the site has not been tidied up, visitors are bringing in gravel and grit on their shoes and scratching the clear glass floor.

Decaris had the foresight to put a sacrificial glass sheet over the thicker, bullet-proof glass below, but then to allow the new surface to be damaged is sheer sloppiness. This is a restoration the French refer more appropriately to an "intervention" which opens a new door on the display of ancient sites. It brings hope for magnificent donjons such as Beaugency on the Loire, where the key has seemingly been thrown away.

Mistakes have been made at Falaise, notably blasting a horrific new emergency exit through the lower walls to comply with safety regulations. But taken as a whole, this is not caprice but a sincere, pioneering and intensely provoking exercise, which turns a frozen antiquity back into a major work of architecture which all can now experience at close quarters.

Frames from a life lived on the hoof

FILM: Christopher Bowen on Martin Sherman's fascination with the world of dance

For a man who trades so successfully in the spoken word, the award-winning playwright Martin Sherman appears to be curiously obsessed by the mute world of dance. A Cuban dancer was the protagonist in an early Sherman script for the BBC, one of the leading characters in the 1979 *Bent* — his most famous play — is also a dancer, and in 1990 he celebrated the life of Isadora Duncan in *When She Danced*. On Friday *Alive and Kicking*, a film set in a contemporary British dance company and Sherman's first original screenplay, opens in London. It is enough to make you wonder if the writer's artistic bent did not take a wrong turn somewhere. "I guess I am fascinated by dance," says Sherman. "And deep, deep down, maybe I once wanted to be a dancer. Though a large part of me is glad I'm not, it's such a difficult, short life. I know a lot of dancers, so I've lived through their lives, their pain, their happiness."

Born in Philadelphia, Sherman says he was "terribly spoiled" by the dance education he received as a young man in New York. "I grew up with

Balanchine and New York City Ballet. I caught the last years of Balanchine's great personality dancers — Allegria Kent, Jacques d'Amboise, Vollette Verdy, Edward Villella — before a certain anonymity started to creep over the company." So it is little wonder that Sherman "naturally gravitated" towards dancers when he began working in the theatre. "Interestingly, though," he says, "most of my friends are not famous dancers. They are people who suffer the sweat and pain without the obvious rewards of acclaim, which — bizarrely — they don't regret for a moment. I find that dedication fascinating."

Bizarre or not, it is a world which Sherman and director Nancy Meckler bring to the screen in *Alive and Kicking*, the story of Tonio, a flamboyant HIV-positive dancer (played by Jason Flemyng) who falls for AIDS counsellor Jack (Antony Sher). Though the often turbulent relationship between the two men and the film's very positive approach to living with AIDS lie at the heart of the piece, the largely convincing portrayal of life in a dance company also comes as a small revelation.



Camp followers: Antony Sher as Jack (left) and Jason Flemyng as Tonio in *Alive and Kicking*

After all, the world's film archives are not overburdened with telling backstage ballet biopics. From Moira Shearer in *The Red Shoes* and Fred Astaire in *Shall We Dance?* to Anne Bancroft's ageing ballerina in *The Turning Point* and Joan Collins's man-eating ballet director in the appropriately entitled *Nutcracker*, film directors and screenwriters invariably seem to dust down the clichés when the cameras start rolling on a dance film.

Sherman will not be drawn on comparisons between *Alive and Kicking* and others of the genre, though he wonders why so few feature prominent gay characters. While he acknowledges that dance and ballet companies are a good deal straighter than most people outside the profession might imagine, "the other truth is there," he says. "I may be criticised for presenting the cliché of the gay dancer. But if it's such a cliché, why hasn't it been filmed? For

something that's supposed to be an off-told tale, it's never been told in cinema." Not so in *Alive and Kicking*. "Queers made my company," proclaims Dorothy Tutin's Luna, matriarchal founder of the film's fictitious ensemble (though since she is experiencing the onset of Alzheimer's, she cannot quite remember what they made it). But true to form, alternative sexualities remain well represented within the ranks of Ballet Luna. The somewhat dated camp-

ery of the backstage banter in the film might strike audiences as unrealistically "luxe". Yet, according to members of the cast, many of whom were drawn from the dance world, the camp stereotype reflects reality. "The college I trained at had a principal very much like Luna," says Aiden Waters, who plays Vincent, Tonio's partner in the film's closing dance, a steamy duet, circa 1950, entitled *Indian Summer*. "She was very camp and I think figures like that inspire flamboyant behaviour. Characters like her are done through the profession." "It's always difficult to reflect the whole dance community," says another of the cast, the dancer Gary Lambert. "But I felt it was a pretty accurate picture of a certain type of company." "One thing that certainly rings true is the sense of ensemble that we achieved through two weeks of rehearsing together," says Flemyng. "The whole film is pretty physical — people draping themselves over each other all the time, which is pretty much what it's like among friends in a dance company. A real rapport can exist. I know this sounds sickeningly cosy, but that was the world Nancy and Martin created with this company. It isn't something you can fake, and I think it shows."

● *Alive and Kicking* opens on Friday

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DORRY HUGHES

Age: 16, and still studying piano and violin at the Yehudi Menuhin School.



Profession-elect: A composer in the making. Her *Nakuru*, a six-minute trio for two violins and piano, was premiered on Sunday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the BT Festival of Dance. "It's a sad, poignant piece, with the two violins intermingling and singing together, and the piano providing the texture. The choreographer gave it the title, because it reminded him of the flamings on the African lake." Dorry was the page-turner on Sunday for her friends Sun Mi Chang and Marine Bkhan (violins) and Alexis White (piano).

Has she always composed? "Yes, right from the start, but I just used to make it up at the piano. Never wrote anything down until I had to for GCSE. I still find the chords and the harmony by improvising at the piano." Her teacher, Malcolm Singer, liked the piece and sent it off to Focus on Dance, a group who had visited the Menuhin School.

What inspires her? "Often a poem. And the movement of human bodies in dance, which is more abstract."

Influences, mentors: Her father, Jim Hughes, who composes songs for musicals. Also Ravel and French chamber music, and Schubert.

What next? "I'd like to write more dance music. I'm working now on a new piece for string orchestra. Eventually I'd like to work in an ensemble, playing music for dance or the theatre."

What does she do in her time off? "I love reading 19th-century novels, especially George Eliot and the Brontës. And poetry. Oh, sorry, I've got to dash for French..."

HILARY FINCH

This week at the National

Oliver Theatre in the round
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by Bertolt Brecht
in a new version by Frank McGuinness
in collaboration with
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Tonight & Fri 6 June at 7.15pm, Thurs 5 & Sat 7 June at 2.30pm & 7.15pm & continuing.

Marat/Sade
by Peter Weiss
English version by Geoffrey Skelton
verse adaptation by Adrian Mitchell
Mon 9 & Tues 10 June at 7.15pm, Wed 11 June at 2.30pm & 7.15pm & continuing.

Lyttelton Theatre
Lady in the Dark
a musical play by Moss Hart
with lyrics by Ira Gershwin
and music by Kurt Weill
Tonight, Thurs 5 & Fri 6 June at 7.30pm, Sat 7 June at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing.

Cottesloe Theatre
Closer
a new play by Patrick Marber
Tonight at 2.30pm & continuing.
King Lear
by William Shakespeare
Tomorrow, Fri 6, Sat 7, Mon 9, Tues 10, Wed 11 & Thurs 12 June at 7.30pm & continuing.
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■ OPERA

Despite its financial woes, English National Opera unveils a brave new season



■ MUSIC 1

At the Bath Festival the pianist Imogen Cooper essays a little cabaret français

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

... and the explosive percussion music of Iannis Xenakis shakes the Guildhall



■ MUSIC 3

... while in London the virtuoso violinist Midori pushes her technique to the limit

Fun and games at the Coliseum

Even the most entangled operatic plots are easier to follow than the latest backstage and boardroom scenarios at London's two opera houses. Inside the Royal Opera House, where the Arts Council's Mary Allen is to be installed as chief executive in place of Genista McIntosh, much deconstruction is still needed to get to the bottom of what looks like an Establishment stitch-up. Across WC2 at the Coliseum, English National Opera has for some time been threatening to come unstitched, and the announcement of next season's plans gives less than complete reassurance that the company is steering the right artistic course under Dennis Marks's general directorship.

"Announcement" is perhaps too strong a word for plans that yesterday plopped onto the doormats of ENO's subscribers and the press. The annual press conference at which plans are traditionally unveiled was for unknown reasons not called, giving rise to speculation about which uncomfortable questions the Marks regime was trying to avoid. Perhaps ENO simply burnt its fingers at the press briefing in January at which it outlined grandiose schemes for a new home — it plainly hadn't expected such a negative reaction — but there are undoubtedly other issues the management would rather not see aired. One must be the recent scrapping of a general percentage pay rise to staff, who are, unsurprisingly, said to be furious.

This sotto voce approach is all the stranger given that there is good news in the 1997-98 season. Eight of the 17 productions are new, and they include works that tend to be in the repertoire more in theory than in practice. So although the emphasis is on "standard" operas, it is a little unfair to dismiss the season as almost all "repertoire" when it includes new stagings of *Il trittico* (produced by Patrick

OPERA: John Allison previews the new season at English National Opera, and talks to the men behind it

Mason) and *The Tales of Hoffmann* (Graham Vick). Puccini's perfectly balanced triptych has not been seen complete in London for several decades, and Offenbach's masterpiece is being performed here for the first time from Michael Kaye's new critical edition. It's strongly cast, too, with John Tomlinson singing the four incarnations of evil.

The best news of all, that Paul Daniel is now poised to take up his position as music director, is curiously under-trumpeted. He comes with an impressive track record from Opera North, and sees the appointment as a return home. "I grew up with this company, it formed my idea of what good opera can be, and it's the blueprint I've taken elsewhere." If there are disagreements between him and Marks as to how the company should be run, he wasn't giving anything away at this joint Marks-Daniel interview.

Daniel arrives after an 18-month period in which ENO has been without a music director. His predecessor was Sian Edwards, operationally inexperienced but a capable conductor who was used as a scapegoat during the upheavals that followed Marks's arrival. True, Marks himself inherited big artistic and financial headaches from the Powerhouse team — his predecessor Peter Jonas appeared towards the end to be operating a "scorched earth" policy — but he created several more of his own. He has adopted a bullish management style, and in interview paints a picture of a Coliseum in which

there are no serious disputes, and of singers' agents who are always understanding when contracts are cancelled.

But one has to listen when Marks talks about what audiences want, because he has successfully turned around falling attendance levels. He defends next season's revivals of core repertoire like *Tosca*, with which the company opens on September 6, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, *La Bohème* and *Carmen*, and not simply on the ground that they still seem to fill the 2,300-seat Coliseum.

"The palates of critics, who see three, four or five operas a week, are inevitably more saturated than the palates of the 550,000 people who come here every year. At *The Magic Flute* two years ago we conducted an audience survey and found

that not only had the majority not seen the *Flute* before, but that 40 per cent had not previously been to an opera."

For those who thought that *The Mikado* had finally been retired, it too makes a return as one of just two Jonathan Miller productions. Another old show worth seeing again is the Hytner staging of *Xenex*. Newer productions returning include *Eugene Onegin* but also the gag-driven *Fairy Queen*, of which one outing was quite enough. The post-Powerhouse ENO has still to build up a stock of its own durable productions.

Only one modern piece features in the main St Martin's Lane season, though of course the Contemporary Opera Studio will still toil away over in Hackney. Gavin Bryars's *Doctor Ox's Experiment*, shift-

ed out of the current season, will now be premiered next June in a production by the fashionable Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan. Last November's *Die Soldaten* apart, the other new productions are more interesting than of late: *The Flying Dutchman* staged by Steen Winge with Willard White; Janáček's *From the House of the Dead* directed by Tim Albery; *Falstaff* in the recent Opera North production by Matthew Warchus; Massenet's *Manon* in a production by David McVicar with Rosa Mannion singing the lead; and an *Elisir of Love* from Jude Kelly, who may well find a way of presenting Donizetti's intimate work at the Coliseum.

Daniel conducts several of the new shows, including September's *Dutchman*. "Some of the programming may look quite selfish, but I want to make a strong connection with the company as a whole, and there's a lot of new work that gives me the opportunity to get close to the chorus." And Marks adds: "This repertoire is designed to exploit the talents of the ENO ensemble, which is steadily growing: we've got Sarah Connolly, Margaret Richardson and Riccardo Simonetti joining the company as principals."

What has been lost? *Parsifal* is now promised for 1998-99, and plans are still afoot for a Hackney Empire season including Handel's *Agrippina* with Lesley Garrett, and Weill's *Lost in the Stars*. Cuts have been made to qualify for the Arts Council's Orwellian "stabilisation programme", devised by none other than Mary Allen. Marks speaks up for it wearily: "Do I like it? No, I don't. Do I think that arts funding in this country should be run this way? No, I don't. But in the meantime we've got to learn through it — and to say to the new Government, you've probably got the one last chance to help the arts."

Do I think arts funding should be run this way? No?



ENO's new music director, Paul Daniel. "This company formed my idea of good opera"

Perfectly formed

A VAST crowd of her compatriots had assembled to support Midori in her recital at the Barbican Hall. There were tiny children, too, for Midori is the Peter Pan of the violin, the child-adult, the prodigy turned grown-up. Those who hang on to her every note will have found plenty to hang on to on Saturday night.

At the compelling centre of the evening was George Enescu's Third Sonata, an extraordinary fantasia on Romanian gypsy music inextricably meshed with Enescu's

RECITAL

Midori
Barbican

own responses to both the Eastern and Western European classical traditions. There is nothing Midori likes better than to push herself to the very limit, and when she is playing this music, with its volatile dynamic fluctuations, its minute and melancholy pitch variations, and its extravagant figuration and ornamentation, there is nothing, it seems, she would rather be doing in the whole world.

The same could not be said of her Schubert. The A major Sonata, D574, was meticulously steered sound, rather than song: the first movement was numb at its centre, and the finale strangely joyless.

But Midori was in fine fettle for Kreisler's *Praeludium* and *Allegro after Pugnani*, a fearless Baroque hoax, whose four-square tonality and rhythmic artifice drew equally confident and thrillingly true playing from Midori and her accompanist Robert McDonald. McDonald could have etched out more clearly the piano writing in the turbulent second movement of César Franck's Sonata. Instead, it hurtled along with little more than raw animal energy.

HILARY FINCH

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

21 CARS TO BE WON

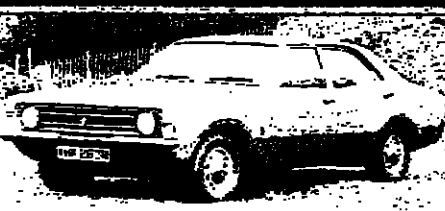
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WHAT HAPPENED IN 1979



- FORD announced the new Cortina '80 range (above is the Cortina MK3)
- First Intercity high-speed train from London to Bristol
- Bar-code scanning was introduced
- Mrs Thatcher became the first woman prime minister
- First Post-it notes and Rubik cube

FORD'S 21 YEARS



CHANGING TIMES

BATH FESTIVAL: Gerald Larner has his eardrums mightily percussed

WITH Iannis Xenakis it seems to be a matter of luck. In several Bath Festival concerts in which he was the featured composer there was this remarkable distinction between the extremes of good and bad. The failures might easily have been successes, you felt. If only it had not been for some small but basic miscalculation — the kind of thing which made his *Kai* turn out like crudely abused Messiaen and his *Mists* go spiralling beyond comprehension.

In the Guildhall concert in which *Kai* was performed by the excellent *Reservoir* ensemble the opposite extreme was represented by *Palimpsest*. A brilliant study in the conflict and resolution of forces released from not quite synchronised instrumental sources, *Palimpsest* is so well calculated as to generate high-voltage, irresistible rhythmic energy. There is a similar impression of spontaneity in the piano piece *Evryali*, which Rolf Hind played in the same programme as the incomprehensible *Mists* and which he proved to be a true keyboard inspiration.

Among the younger British composers featured, one of the most interesting was Abwynne Pritchard. Her intriguingly scored *Craw*, written for *Reservoir*, was clearly dictated by the car rather than by formula and had a corresponding aural appeal in its delicate colouring and sensitive applications of dynamic pressure. And in Hind's recital you could only be impressed by Simon Holt's initially problematic and ultimately beautiful *Nigredo*.

For X-files only

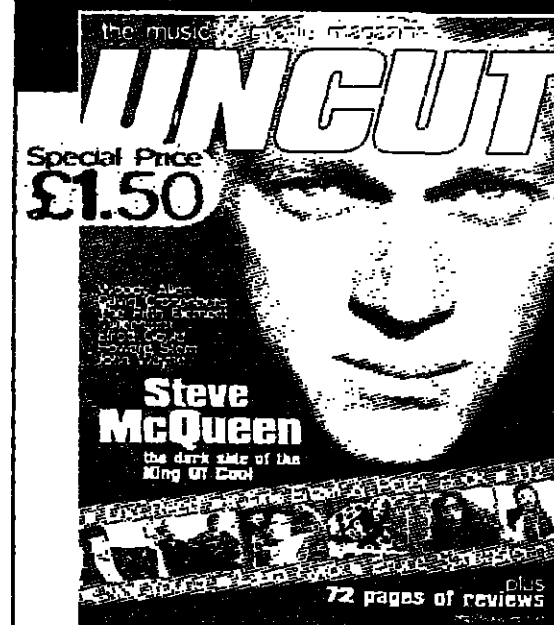
The Guildhall concert by Les Ateliers UPIC began with an absurdist degree ceremony to confer an honorary doctorate of music on Xenakis, founder of Les Ateliers UPIC.

Xenakis went through with it like the hero he is but that was only the first problem of a generally ill-conceived evening. Most of the others related to the inescapable and predictable fact that the Guildhall concert room is far too small for percussion music. From the first sound of Xenakis's explosive *Rebonds* we knew we were in for trouble. But that was nothing in comparison with Brigitte Rohindoré's *Comme étrangers et voyageurs sur la terre*. Originally scored for one percussionist and tape, it has been revised, to satisfy "metaphysical" requirements, for two percussionists and tape. But it was hard to concentrate on metaphysics when my eardrums were being drilled by the hundred things percussionists can do with a tam-tam.

Having by then heard the festival commission, Xenakis's *EROD* for pre-recorded tape, many understandably fled for safety. Those who stayed were rewarded by another Xenakis piece for tape solo, *S.709*, together with inscrutable but relatively painless works by David Revell and Takehito Shimazaki. The one truly musically inspired item, in which the brilliant UPIC percussionist Roland Auzet so spontaneously interacted with the

late-night diversion in the Pavilion. The alternative was a *Cabaret Français* in the Pump Room. In fact a concert by pianists Imogen Cooper and Anne Queffelec, it was a very welcome refuge and a healing experience, thanks not least to Juanita Lascarro, soprano soloist in songs by Honegger and Ravel.

The new monthly music & movie magazine



"Everything he did was extreme. He liked an extreme amount of sex, an extreme amount of marijuana, and an extreme amount of cocaine." Steve McQueen the dark side of the King Of Cool

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POP

No hint of softness or sentimentality as David Bowie delivers a blistering gig in the West End



THEATRE

There are few laughs in *Throwaway*. Danny Miller's comedy about East End bookies

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 1

Hollywood comes to the stage in London. Jerry Lewis plays in *Damn Yankees*...



CHOICE 2

...and Leslie Caron plays in *Nocturne for Lovers* in Chichester

The man sells his world

David Bowie began his set on Monday night with an acoustic guitar around his neck, strumming the chords to *Quicksand* from his 1971 album *Hunky Dory*. "I'm sinking in the quicksand of my thought, and I ain't got the power any more," he sang with the help of a gaudy proportion of those fans lucky enough to have been shoe-horned into this 730-capacity



"Whether dishing out pell-mell jungle rhythms or elephant-walk thump, David Bowie shows no hint of softness"

West End club. Neither the folksy style nor sad sentiment of the song could have been less representative of what was to follow. True, there was a smattering of old numbers, including *Scary Monsters* and *Fashion*, and a finale of *Jean Genie*. *Queen* *Blotch* and *Fame* that was dispensed in much the same way as a biscuit might be given to reward a dog for good behaviour. But the emphasis of the set — which was played at crushing volume with a bias towards bass frequencies that bordered on the surreal — was squarely on the more challenging, dance-orientated material from Bowie's most recent albums, *Earthling* and *Outside*. Whether dishing out the pell-mell jungle rhythms of

Battle for Britain and *Little Wonder*, or the elephant-walk thump of *Seven Years in Tibet*, neither Bowie nor his shock-trooper band showed any hint of sentimentality or softness. The spectacular energy level was maintained as they worked their way towards a thunderous climax on

Hallo Spaceboy, during which Reeves Gabeles seemed to deploy his guitar more as a sonic stungun than a musical instrument. If nothing else this first, impressive part of the gig underlined the point that Bowie has retained a creative initiative and performing vigour that are rare indeed among artists of his vintage.

Unfortunately, he couldn't leave it at that, and after a 30-minute break, he led the band back for an additional "dance" set. This was a grim affair which basically involved replacing Zachary Alford with a drum machine, cranking up

the bass end even louder, and repeating numbers such as *Dead Man Walking* and *V-2 Schneider*, only this time short of anything that could be interpreted as a tune. The odd thing was that absolutely nobody danced to any of it.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THEATRE: Racing comedy set for the knacker's yard; sub-standard fare from the sub-continent

Rather rank outsiders

Throwaway Theatre Royal, Stratford East

SLICES of East End life are always pitching up at the Theatre Royal: larger-than-life stories that plunder the local streets for inspiration, some of it invention, some of it the honest truth. Danny Miller's story about a Jewish family running a bookie's pitch at the local racetracks never really gives the actors a chance to play with either. When Billy Macey loses his betting licence for six months because of malpractice it throws the business into financial jeopardy. It's not a large business basically a betting pitch near the finishing post — but it's successful enough to keep both the family and the firm (Macey's balding

Bored to the bones

Skeleton Soho Theatre

THIS odd and unsatisfying play turns out to be based upon a story by Rabindranath Tagore, and the merits of the original are difficult to discern in Tanika Gupta's version of it. Jonathan Lloyd's production — not his best work — will be the last full-size event here before the builders move in. The plans are exciting, and in its various homes these past 25 years the Soho Theatre Company has mounted plays of breathtaking imagination, but this is not one of those, even if a skeleton does come to life on stage and a ten-armed goddess hovers above the rooftops. The elements are these: young Gopal (Ronny Jhum) returns to his widowed father at the close of his first year of medical studies in Calcutta. Once upon

a time he had thoughts of marrying sweet little Anju (Paminder Nagra) but now he has fallen for one of his professor's daughters. So Question One is: what will happen to Anju?

Question Two is: what's that skeleton all about? Doting father (Renu Sena) has bought it to help his son's studies, but every night the bones re-acquire the flesh of their amorous former owner, Nayan (Mina Anwar), who teases Gopal most dreadfully with her winsome ways, and clearly wants to lure the foolish lad to his death. On the mundane level we are offered a simple tale of love misprized (although Anju has been waiting for Gopal's rejection so that she can marry someone else, so that's all right, then). On the supramundane level the skeleton-ghost-demon's story of killing herself and a sequence of husbands because she does not want to lose her beauty bears no relation to the other parts of the play.

So, while such elements as Nagra's perky spirit and Sena's nervous giggles give some pleasure, the play is pretty much of a mess.

JEREMY KINGSTON

LONDON

DAMN YANKEES After a decade of "Hollywood" in London, Jerry Lewis plays in *Damn Yankees* at the Adelphi Theatre. The play is a comedy about a baseball player who is sent to London to play for the London Yankees. The play is a comedy about a baseball player who is sent to London to play for the London Yankees. The play is a comedy about a baseball player who is sent to London to play for the London Yankees.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

ELSEWHERE **GLASGOW** Alison Krauss and her band Union Square perform at the Royal Concert Hall. **SALISBURY** The Salisbury Festival of Music is held at the Salisbury Cathedral. **SALISBURY** The Salisbury Festival of Music is held at the Salisbury Cathedral.

THEATRE GUIDE

THE BIRDS The Birds is a play by Dario Fo. **THE BIRDS** The Birds is a play by Dario Fo. **THE BIRDS** The Birds is a play by Dario Fo.

THEATRE GUIDE

THE BIRDS The Birds is a play by Dario Fo. **THE BIRDS** The Birds is a play by Dario Fo. **THE BIRDS** The Birds is a play by Dario Fo.

NEW RELEASES

ABSOLUTE POWER (15) The American President is involved in a murder, and... **ABSOLUTE POWER** (15) The American President is involved in a murder, and... **ABSOLUTE POWER** (15) The American President is involved in a murder, and...

CINEMA GUIDE

THE BIRDS The Birds is a play by Dario Fo. **THE BIRDS** The Birds is a play by Dario Fo. **THE BIRDS** The Birds is a play by Dario Fo.

ART GALLERIES

PARSON GALLERY 25 May - 27 June. John Minton and Friends. 11 Macclesfield St. SW1. Mon-Fri 10-6pm. Tel: 0171 235 6144

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8800 (24hrs) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** (Tours) 0171 235 6144 **L'ALLEGRO**

THEATRES

ADDELPHI *Legendary Entertainer* **JERRY LEWIS** *Damn Yankees* *A hilarious musical with heart* *Opens Tuesday 7.30pm* *Eves 7.30pm Mon-Fri 7.30pm* *2.30pm 0171 413 1777 (24hrs low fee)* *0171 632 8800 (24hrs)* *0171 632 8800 (24hrs)*

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Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

Focus on your future - attend our Open Day

Friday 20th June 1997, RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2. 11.00am until 6.30pm.
Nearest underground: Charing Cross or the Embankment

As one of the world's largest professional services firms, at Ernst & Young, we believe that recruiting the right individuals is integral to our continued growth and success.

We currently have a number of vacancies within our London offices, ranging from Administrative Assistant to Senior PA. We are therefore actively seeking applicants with at least a GCSE (or equivalent) in English and Maths, good typing skills, computer literacy and an enthusiastic, flexible approach.

In return, we can offer a competitive salary and a generous benefits package, including 22 days' holiday, a profit-related pay scheme, paid overtime and a variety of sports and social facilities.

So if you are looking for the chance to progress your career in a dynamic, friendly environment, come along to our Open Day. Talk to some of our staff, meet our HR team and learn about the range of opportunities we can offer. No appointment necessary but if you would like further information, please call either Amanda or Jessica on 0171 931 5864/5892.

ERNST & YOUNG

The United Kingdom firm of Ernst & Young is a member of Ernst & Young International.

Personal Assistant to the General Manager

Our client is a large international pharmaceutical company with a manufacturing operation in Merseyside.

They have a need for a candidate of the highest calibre to take on the newly created position of Personal Assistant to the General Manager of the Merseyside facility as well as one other senior manager.

The role will demand that you take control of the General Manager's diary. Routine administration functions will be handled by yourself including attendance at management meetings (internal and external) in place of the G.M. A key aspect of the job will be liaising with local politicians, government agencies and the senior management of other companies. You will have excellent secretarial/keyboarding (Microsoft, Word for

Windows, Excel and Powerpoint) skills gained from extensive experience (10+ years) at a similar level. You will be expected to gather data and prepare briefing materials, also undertake the drafting of presentations and other tasks which will release more of the G.M.'s time. Naturally, your inter-personal and organisational skills will be of the highest level. Initiative, coolness under pressure together with tact and confidentiality plus a flexible approach are paramount.

The salary range is £17,800 to £21,200 p.a. plus non-contributory pension scheme, free life assurance, free healthcare insurance for employee (subsidised for family members), flexible working hours, 25 days basic holiday entitlement and relocation assistance, where appropriate, to the Merseyside area.



Please write, including c.v. and current salary details to:
TOM WILLIAMS FRASER RECRUITMENT, EFFECTIVE HOUSE,
RAINHILL ROAD, RAINHILL, MERSEYSIDE L35 4LD.

Secretary to the General Manager International

Competitive Salary + Banking Benefits City of London

Midland Head Office International is responsible for developing Midland Bank's overseas operations, where almost 3000 staff are employed in 28 countries.

A vacancy has arisen for the Secretary to the General Manager International.

This dynamic role requires the provision of a full secretarial and support service with responsibility for ensuring the smooth running and workflow of the secretarial resource.

The successful candidate will be confident and assertive with a high level of initiative and organisational skills, plus the ability to produce accurate work, often to tight deadlines.

Proficiency in shorthand is essential, as is computer literacy in Word for Windows. A flexible approach to working hours is essential.

Previous experience in a similar senior secretarial role would be a distinct advantage.

This challenging opportunity to make a major contribution to the running of a busy office includes a benefits package commensurate with that of a leading international bank.

If you have the expertise and experience to contribute to our success, please forward your CV including current salary details to:

Milton Ives
Human Resources Manager
International
Midland Bank plc
1st Floor
St Magnus House
3 Lower Thames Street
London EC3R 6HA

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

**POSITIVE ABOUT
DISABLED PEOPLE**
We are an equal opportunities employer

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER - CIRCA £25,000 p.a.

A rapidly expanding dynamic firm of London Estate Agents requires a personable and active Administration Manager. Based at our office in Notting Hill Gate you will be responsible for the recruitment and training of secretarial teams, the management of our fleet, computers and systems and in general the overall efficiency of this Company. Age 30-40 years you will be able to illustrate a track record in a similar consumer focused industry. Applications in writing, only with a detailed CV and a handwritten letter of application.

Ref: FSI/AM Farm Salaris, 89, Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JZ.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Supporting a small team running the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Regent's Park you will be dealing with representatives from over 90 countries, organising travel, meetings, newsletters as well as providing information to medical professionals and their organisations. You will need to be flexible, efficient, hard working, able to use your own initiative, have both excellent secretarial skills and telephone manner. Computer literacy is a must, specifically with knowledge of Microsoft Word, Database, Approach, and Excel. Knowledge of Spanish/French a definite advantage. We offer a competitive salary with a benefits package to the ideal candidate. Please state salary expectations when applying in writing with a current CV and Mr. Franky Kenny, PHD Secretaries, 27 Seven Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG.

KEYBORED?

Presentation and Graphics Specialists

Location: Docklands

Perm from £18k Temp £10 - £12ph

Based on our client premises, as an essential service to their business, it's our job to produce documents, presentations and financial reports for major blue chip companies.

To maintain our consistent high standards, we are looking for experienced presentation specialists who have:

- + 1 year's experience working within a corporate, deadline driven environment.
- + Excellent keyboard skills, 50+ wpm - Advanced Word, Powerpoint or Freelance Graphics.
- + Multi Lingual - fluent (written and oral) in either French/German/Spanish.

We provide a 24 hour operation so a number of Permanent and Temporary opportunities are available around the clock - day/evening and night shifts, and if you are seeking part-time work we have two weekend posts available.

If you feel you meet the criteria and you want to take advantage of the rewards that come with working for a market leader call Alex Stock or Cara Ostry now on the Freelance division and Joanna Prewett on the Permanent division on 0171 247 7971.

Or send your CV to Williams Lea Resourcing, Clifton House, Worship Street, London EC2A 2EL.

Williams Lea Resourcing

CHARING CROSS AND WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL (University of London)

Department of Clinical Neurosciences

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR/PERSONAL ASSISTANT £16,725 - £19,020 p.a. inc (under review)

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced secretary who will work as PA to Professor C. Kennard, Head of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences and Chairman Designate, Division of Neuroscience and Psychological Medicine, Imperial College. The successful applicant will be working in a rapidly expanding department, dealing with both research, administration and teaching programmes. It is essential that in addition to accurate audio typing (Microsoft Word and Excel) you have proven organisational skills, and ability to prioritise a busy workload and adept at multi-tasking. Good communication skills are also essential since the post involves dealing directly with a wide variety of people.

Good working conditions and an excellent pension scheme.

Further particulars and application forms obtainable from the Director of Personnel, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, The Reynolds Building, St. Dunstan's Road, London W6 8RP. Tel: 0181 846 7527, to be submitted within three weeks of the appearance of this advertisement. (Quote Ref 97/46)

CX&WMS is an equal opportunities employer.

AGRICULTURAL CLERK

Starting Salary £15,539 to £17,897
(Subject to Job Evaluation)

The office of Agricultural Affairs at the American Embassy requires a clerk to provide clerical support. Duties will include typing, Word Processing, filing, distributing office mail, responding to routine inquiries via telephone & letter, maintaining departmental database and collating & distributing a monthly publication to over 1000 subscribers.

The successful applicant will have:

- Minimum of one year's clerical experience which involved both Word & Data Processing
- 4 GCSE 'O Levels' or equivalent in academic subjects
- A minimum of 40wpm typing
- Ideally be fully proficient in the use of WordPerfect 6.1 for Windows
- A basic understanding of US/UK import industry

Please apply in writing only, with a full CV outlining current salary and a day time telephone number to:

The Personnel Office, American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE
Closing Date: 16 June 1997 at 5pm.

If you do not hear from us by July 11, 1997 please consider that your application has been unsuccessful. Only those applicants who fully meet the criteria stipulated above will be considered for this position. Workweek: 40 hours Monday to Friday. The successful applicant will be required to go through an Embassy security investigation prior to appointment.

The American Embassy is an equal Opportunity Employer



OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UK 1997

Regus is the world's largest Business Centre Group with over 100 Centres worldwide offering fully serviced office accommodation in over 40 major cities in Europe. We have opportunities immediately and throughout 1997 for:

CENTRE MANAGERS

Managing one of our prestigious offices and a support team of up to six people. Responsible for the sales, service and profitability of the operation, with a high degree of autonomy. Good all round commercial skills preferred.

ASSISTANT MANAGERS

Assisting the Centre Manager in the day to day running of the Business Centre in an environment where there is the opportunity to progress your career. An ongoing personality and the ability to work on your own initiative are important.

FA's
Well presented individuals, seeking a challenging career, who would like the opportunity to work in a dynamic organisation. Good telephone manner and computer literacy essential.

Excellent career development opportunities and a very competitive compensation package exist for the right candidate. Language would be a distinct advantage.

Similar positions exist in Europe where a second language is a necessity.

Please send CV's to:

Diane Gray
Regus Management Ltd
Raynet House
The Casework
Station
Middles
TW18 3BA

01784 548333 (Fax)
01784 548222 (Tel)

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

Win a Ford Ka worth £7,500



To coincide with *Crème 97, The Executive Secretary Show*, we offer you the chance to win a Ford Ka, the curvy car that has become a four-wheel design statement for the nineties. It is worth £7,500. The stylish Ka gives a terrific drive. Neat and nimble, it has excellent handling and roadholding. In town the tightest parking space is yours, while on the open road the response is better than many a larger car. Nearly two feet longer than a Mini, the eye-catching Ka has a 1.3-litre four-cylinder engine and a five-speed gearbox with a top speed of 90mph. Fuel consumption averages 48 miles to the gallon. The Ka is a classy, classless car startling and brilliantly designed.

HOW TO ENTER

You can see the Ka at *The Times* stand at Olympia 2 on June 11, 12 and 13 where there will also be details of how to enter. Simply call our hotline number, below, before midnight on Wednesday June 18, with your answer to this question:

On average how many miles to the gallon can you get from a Ka?

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply.

0891 555 920

Calls cost 50p per minute

See our 20-page *Crème de la Crème* supplement in tomorrow's *Times*

CHANGING TIMES

CREME DE LA CREME

ROOM AT THE TOP

High Flyer PA

£28,000 package

This international search company is looking for an energetic PA to support their Chief Executive. Based in the corporate head offices you will be responsible for liaising with senior management across the group, on-boarding international schedules and

running a complex diary. This high profile role requires an intelligent, highly organised and self-motivated PA with proven secretarial experience and a proven record of supporting an Executive office smoothly and efficiently. Skills: shorthand and 60wpm typing.

Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

HOBSTONES

OFFICE MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY £20,000 (negotiable)

An opportunity to assist our client in the running of their small, successful consultancy in an attractive, friendly environment in Holland Pk. This varied role combines PA, Office Management responsibilities with research projects. The partner seeks a self-starter happy to work independently and who has familiarity with Word, Excel, Windows 95 as well as accounting/bookkeeping experience. The ideal candidate will be intelligent, highly organised, display excellent interpersonal + communication skills maturity + flexibility. Please call Veronica Nolan on

0171 437 6032

RECRUITMENT

HOBSTONES

CAREER IN PERSONNEL £18,000 + IPD sponsorship

An exciting position has arisen for a confident individual with at least 2 years secretarial experience and an interest in personnel to work for the HR Director of a Blue Chip company in W1. Working closely with this young, ambitious Director you will be given tremendous scope to develop your secretarial and personnel skills. This challenging role demands good organisational skills, creative flair, flexible attitude and ability to liaise at all levels. 55wpm typing and good knowledge of MS Word for Windows essential. Exc. ben. including 25 days hols. Phone Mike Pierre-Louis on

0171 437 6032

RECRUITMENT

HR IN BANKING

£30,000 Package

This international investment bank based in the City, requires a PA to support their senior HR Director. Working within a hectic and challenging environment, you will be involved with all aspects of equity recruitment, liaising with the HR officers in Hong Kong, New York and Australia, drafting your own correspondence and organising complex travel itineraries. Working for an intelligent, client driven boss with global responsibilities, your experience working under pressure for an HR Director will be essential. If you have an excellent command of English grammar and secretarial skills of 60 wpm typing and advanced MS Word and Excel 97/98, please call us

Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

GOLD STANDARD

£24,000 Package

Our client is a leading international organisation specialising in natural resources, including gold. They have a vacancy in their corporate headquarters for a senior Personal Assistant to work for a Vice President and the Group Legal Adviser. For this comprehensive and demanding role, the successful candidate will have had extensive experience of complex travel and diary arrangements, international liaison and meeting co-ordination. Outstanding interpersonal abilities and secretarial skills of 60wpm will be essential.

Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

SUMMER IN THE SUN... FOR THE SIZZLING HOT TEMPS

Our friendly, approachable and busy consultants are keen to talk to TIP TOP TEMPS for immediate bookings at fantastic rates in TV, Arts, Media in West End, and High Finance in City. Our Temps tell us that our clients' challenging assignments are unrivalled - many stay permanently! All we ask for is 50+ typ. good WPs, shorthand a bonus.

Make the South of France a reality - RING TODAY! Ref: 75/51.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES 0171-468 0400

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We specialise in unusual opportunities for candidates who want a job with a difference...

18K SPORTS INSURANCE - Confidential PA to work for Chairman of established co. Age 29+ Skills 50wpm

16K EXECUTIVE SEARCH - young, fun, hard working co need cv presented team sec. room for progression. <60

18K INTERIOR DESIGN - prestigious firm, top clients, polished PA, good skills, fluent French

18K FINANCE - young team sec required for small team in lively co based in K. bridge. <60

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES 0171-468 0400

WEST END TEMPS Secretaries and Receptionists

- Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
- Cross training onto the latest systems.
- Immediate short and long term assignments, matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Jo, Sophie, Jane & Astrid on 0171 499 8070

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY TEMPS Secretaries and Receptionists

- Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
- Cross training onto the latest systems.
- Immediate short and long term assignments, matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Katrina, Alan, Dawn & Harriet on 0171 638 9991

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PROJECT DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

We are a firm of Consulting Engineers (100 staff) involved in the design of a wide range of work, from the design of new buildings to urban planning and the care of historic buildings.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and intelligent person to fulfil an important administrative position that controls the overall management of our information about projects and maintains our database.

This is a challenging role which requires clear thinking, organisational skills and the ability to communicate well with people at all levels. The position is based within our finance section and would suit someone who is numerate and computer literate.

Please apply in writing with CV and daytime telephone number to:

Garth Theron
Alan Baxter & Associates
14-16 Cowcross Street
LONDON EC1M 6DR

MATURE PA REQUIRED FOR THREE MAIN BOARD DIRECTORS LONDON SW1

SALARY NEGOTIABLE PLUS PIP AND PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

We are a large publicly quoted motor group and require a high calibre confidential person, preferably who lives in London, to join our small friendly team based at our Corporate Office in Knightsbridge.

A good knowledge of either Word for Windows 6 or Word Perfect 6 and excellent shorthand essential.

If you are able to work under pressure, are unflappable, have good organisational skills and take a real pride in your work, please send your CV to:

Mr Pat Picher
H.R. Owen Pte
Corporate Office
75 Kensington Street
London SW1X 8ED

(No agencies please)

Team Secretaries

up to £14,000 pa Westminster

We are a major engineering consultancy with exciting opportunities for two enthusiastic individuals to join our team in Westminster.

If you have substantial previous experience in a secretarial role, are organised and enjoy the challenge of working for a number of people in a very demanding environment, this role may be just what you are looking for. We specifically need fast typing and knowledge of MS Word and WordPerfect.

To apply, send your concise CV with details of current salary to: Jo Bridges, Parkman Group Ltd, 1 Tudor Court, Station Parade, Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AE.

Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AE.
Tel: 0181 643 9443.
Interviews will be held in Westminster.

NEED SOME MONEY?

Why sit at home waiting for your agency to call when you could be working for one of our prestigious City or West End clients and earn SERIOUS MONEY? Here is just a taster of current assignments we are looking to fill.

IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (min 90 wpm)

- Senior Secretary - Banking - Ongoing
- Manager's Secretary - IT - 4 weeks
- Team Secretary - Brokers - 8 months

IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (min 60 wpm)

- Manager's Secretary - Personnel - 6 months
- Team Secretary - Entertainment Finance - Week by week
- Junior Sec/Receptionist - Consultancy - Temp to perm

If you have excellent secretarial skills, a good working knowledge of Windows packages and are aged 18-40, call our Temporary Division NOW!

WANT A SOCIAL LIFE? £16K-£18K
Prestigious International Company are looking for professional articulate team secretaries with 50wpm typing, WAW and Powerpoint. Brilliant benefits, superb offices, lovely people and no heavy overtime. If you have a steady CV and are aged 22-35 call Anna for further details.

DON'T WANT TO BE A DYNAMO? £17K + EXCELLENT BENS
Do you enjoy typing and want to use your brain? This small and friendly property team, within a Blue Chip company, want to hear from you if you have 60wpm, WPS.1 and W4W. Ideal age 25-35. Call Catherine NOW!

BROKERS NEED HELP! £18K + EXC BENS
Never a dull moment! Stacks of involvement, lots of personalities and a happy, friendly department - does this describe what you are looking for? If you are young, dynamic and charismatic with knowledge of MS Office and rusty shorthand, call Corrina NOW!

TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

Personal Assistant to Director
International Executive Search Company
Wimbledon Village

Our Company with a glorious past and bright future has established itself in a niche market. We work in an exceptional environment with a unique modern approach.

A stylish and confident lady is sought who will have relevant secretarial skills together with flair, personality and dedication. Rewards will be above the norm.

Other positions available.
Please reply with your CV to
Marlene Bennett International
4 Glencairn, 78 Ridgway, Wimbledon, SW19 4RA
Tel 0181 947 1056 Fax 0181 946 5722

Established and Prestigious ART GALLERY

is looking for a PA to Chairman
Fluent French and knowledge of the art world essential together with shorthand, typing and Word for Windows.

Age: 30/40

Please reply with CV to:

Mrs J Handorf
The Lefevre Gallery
30 Bruton Street
London W1X 8JD

Canning More sales than admin

Canning runs training courses for business and professional people from all over Europe and East Asia.

We are looking for a lively person with initiative and a good sense of humour to join our sales team, handling the administration of course bookings and developing new business on the telephone. You will be in regular contact with clients, assisting them with their training requirements, giving information on our courses and organising inhouse seminars in your territories.

You will need very good business Spanish and some competences in one other European language as well as English to mother-tongue standard. Some sales experience would also be an advantage as would W5 and/or Unix literacy.

Salary £17,000 rising to £17,500 on confirmation in the job after (normally) 3 months. Generous holidays, pension and profit-sharing schemes. If you are 25+, well organised yet flexible and are happy to work in a non-smoking environment, we would like to hear from you. No agencies, please.

For your CV to Helen Palmer on 0171 938 2803 giving a daytime telephone number.

Office Services Manager

The Firm

Andersen Consulting enjoys the prestige of being the world's largest business and technology consultancy. Our outsourcing division, Business Process Management (BPM) pioneered the concept of outsourcing business-critical functions such as Accounting, Supply Chain Services and IT functions and through such strategic alliances we are both a key partner and an integral part of our clients' success. With ambitious plans for future expansion we have shown substantial growth in recent years. BPM currently has in excess of 2000 employees.

The Role

The ultimate remit of the role is the delivery and management of high quality secretarial and administration services to all BPM units throughout the UK and at the London head office. The main activities are as follows:

- Recruitment and development of all permanent and temporary secretaries; the administration to

Include the liaison with Partners, HR Managers and Directors to ensure the smooth operation of resources.

- Co-ordination and implementation of office environments including the provision of IT, space allocation and to assist in the setting-up of new Unit offices.
- Monitor and control all budgets to achieve agreed spending levels.
- Event management, conferences and major social functions.
- Other ad hoc project work as required.

The Person

This is a very senior role which requires someone with presence, maturity and diplomacy and the capability to liaise effectively with executive personnel. The person requirements are:

- Experience of working within a large professional organisation.
- Competence in managing and leading a team of

people across diverse geographic locations.

- Ability to manage large budgets.
- Familiarity with secretarial and administrative procedures.
- Professionalism, self-confidence, creativity, business acumen and a Client/Customer focus are essential qualities.

Competitive Salary and Excellent Benefits Package

Please reply with full Curriculum Vitae together with current and expected salary details to:

Our retained consultant,
Sheila Griffiths at Consult, 13 Broad Street,
ALRESFORD, Hampshire SO24 9AR. Telephone
01962 735577 (24 hrs) Fax 01962 735007.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING

Personal Assistant

£15k

Sutton, Surrey

We are currently looking for a PA to the Group Head of our Leukemia and Myeloma Unit. It's a role offering scope for initiative across a wide range of involvement - one minute you could be dealing with anxious and distressed patients, the next organising an international conference.

You should combine excellent secretarial skills with a highly organised yet flexible approach, good planning and organisational abilities and some previous supervisory and office management experience. You must be proactive to change and have the ability to re-prioritise work in light of unexpected events.

If you are looking for a challenging, stimulating position and if you think you match our requirements we would like to hear from you. In return we can offer a friendly working environment, workplace crèche, holiday playscheme and sports facilities.

For further information, please contact Mary Jo MacAuley on 0181 642 6011 ext. 3307. For an application form and information pack, please contact the Human Resources Department, The Royal Marsden NHS Trust, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT. Tel: 0181 643 4824. Please quote job reference 2843. Closing date: 18th June 1997.

Committed to Equal Opportunities in Employment

THE ROYAL MARSDEN NHS TRUST



RECEPTIONIST £15,000 + Benefits

A prestigious wine merchant in Central London is seeking to recruit an articulate, well presented receptionist.

The successful applicant must have six months experience as a receptionist or similar position, an excellent telephone manner, 45 wpm typing and be windows literate. If you are bright and confident in your approach and have the ability to work on your own initiative in a busy and exciting environment, send your CV to PO box no for an immediate start.

For further information and an application form contact Living Earth on 0171 258 1822.

WE ARE an international, organisation working in environmental education. WE NEED an organised, dynamic and well presented office manager with minimum 3 years experience in building and office management, and Apple Mac systems. A broad range of skills and the ability to get "task in" are essential.

THIS IS an opportunity for you to work as part of a highly motivated and innovative team (15 staff) towards making the most important issues of our time. Salary £10,000.

For further information and an application form contact Living Earth on 0171 258 1822.

Top Rates for Top People Long term assignments for experienced Secretaries Central and West London

Excellent remuneration for quality secretaries, 50wpm using Microsoft Word - good shorthand attract even higher rates. Good organisational and communication skills. If you want the rewards that go with a challenging, demanding and interesting job, then contact Sandra Babin.

Ref: The Agency of Choice
Telephone 0181 246 6910
Fax 0181 741 2001

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

Leading TV production company based in small central London office seeks recent graduate (Business/IT) with excellent verbal and written communication skills. This demanding junior position, working for both producer and MD, is intended as an eventual springboard to senior responsibility and as such provides security but low initial salary. Role involves: research, well-organised self-starter ready to run a TV company in a number of years and willing to sacrifice regular hours and good salary for a unique opportunity. Wives permanently and immediately with full CV and references, to fax 0171 435 4241.

PARTNERS SECRETARY Salary £18,000

We are a small but well established firm of Chartered Surveyors who are expanding into the West End and require an experienced secretary with a good sense of humour to help get us going.

For your cv to 0171 495 6171 (after: Bob West/John Baines) Knowledge of MS Word essential. No Agencies

SECRETARIAL POSITION £14,000

Required for exciting Chelsea based Property Developers. Computer skills, excellent telephone manner and general office duties Hours 9-5 pm.

CV's to: Oliver, Northam, 48 Old Church Street, London SW9 6BY

Secretaries and Receptionists

Due to our expanding network, we have a number of vacancies in the London area for enthusiastic team players with excellent organisational skills and a mature outlook. Successful applicants should possess high levels of literacy using Word 6 coupled with speed of typing. Please write or fax: Harri Noonan, Hampton International, 50 Belgrave Road, London, SW1V 8BQ. Tel: 0171 834 2312 Fax: 0171 834 0610

TRAVEL Team Secretary

Super job working in a busy and fast moving environment. Must be computer literate including Microsoft Word. Salary negotiable for the right quality person. For your CV and call Edward at G.N. Travel, Heathrow House, 20 Swile Ave, London W1X 1AE. Tel: 0171 434 3682 Fax: 0171 494 2695 No Agencies

ARTS/MEDIA/FILM/TV

Flexible tranquil brilliant PA wanted. Weekend availability? Large arty Victorian house close Hampstead tube. CV's to 0171 435 2628.

GOOD ALL ROUNDER

For an lively recruitment consultancy in SW London. The person would be a college leaver who is quick thinking has a good telephone manner and would like to be in a progressive office. Please call Anna on 0171 724 6464

CREME DE LA CREME

LAP OF LUXURY
£13,000 TO £15,000
WEST END

Exclusive London hotel seeks an enthusiastic, outgoing assistant. An exciting role juggling a variety of tasks such as menu planning, organising the flowers, booking conference rooms, as well as becoming involved in all areas of hotel life. Full secretarial support is essential for co-ordinating hotel administration behind the scenes. If you are looking for progression, and have 50wpm and good WP packages please contact Andrea Murrell or Lucy Thomas on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Office Administrator

£20,000

A busy chemical company requires an efficient administrator to be responsible for running the office. Strong secretarial skills and an outgoing personality are essential to secure this position. Candidates must also have previous bookkeeping experience, a sound working knowledge of Sage, MS Office and Word4Windows and 50wpm. Luxurious office environment.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions in the West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820

For over 1,000 jobs, visit <http://www.reed.co.uk>

Time is Money

£20,000

West Hampstead

A varied and responsible role working for the Managing Director of International luxury goods manufacturer. Liaise at the highest level, manage a busy diary and provide strong lines of communication as well as co-ordinating your own projects. You must be prepared to take responsibility, self-motivated and have a lively and intelligent disposition. Proven PA track record, Word 6 for Windows and shorthand a must. For further information please contact Andrea Murrell on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Secretary In Finance

£20,000

Highly professional secretary sought to provide backup to the Assistant Group Treasurer and 5 others in the treasury department of this major utilities company. Duties involve both a secretarial role and covering for the Settlements Confirmation Clerk so experience or an interest in finance would be helpful. Word4Windows essential. Training given on other systems.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions in the City, Tel: 0171 638 1666

For over 1,000 jobs, visit <http://www.reed.co.uk>

Moving On Up

£17-19K + Fab Bens

West End

Large international firm seeks excellent secretarial assistant to join their dynamic team. You will have good knowledge of Windows combined with a strong sense of team responsibility as well as a real eye for detail and boundless enthusiasm. The job content is interesting and diverse with the opportunity to become totally involved. A minimum of 5 GCSE's at Grade C and the attitude to succeed are the key. Please call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

FRONT LINE RECEPTIONISTS

Up to £18,000 package pro rata for long term contracts, with the possibility of becoming permanent. Professional, enthusiastic and confident people required by prestigious City Investment Bank with stunning offices. Varied role with lots of profile comes and no switchboard duties working in a large friendly team. Benefits include paid holiday, overtime and 2 uniforms per year. Hotel or similar front-line experience useful. Please contact Sarah Champion or Jo Hibbin for an immediate interview and start. 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

For over 1,000 jobs, visit <http://www.reed.co.uk>

HIGHLY RATEABLE!

Temping that adds up

\$10.00ph

- 2 years PA experience at Board level
- 90 wpm shorthand/55 wpm typing/audio
- Intermediate Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint

\$9.50ph

- 2 years experience at Director level
- Intermediate Word on Apple Mac, Powerpoint and Claris Works
- 60 wpm typing

\$12.50ph

- 3 years PA experience at Director level
- 80 wpm typing/audio
- Advanced Word for Windows, Powerpoint or Freelance

\$9.00ph

- 1 year team level secretarial experience
- 55 wpm typing
- Advanced Word for Windows and Excel

As a Crone Corkill temporary secretary your skills will always be recognised by us and rewarded with the best hourly rates in London. We match everyone's individual skills to the right assignment and ensure you receive the rate you deserve.

- Plus we offer you opportunities to explore the world of high finance in the City with its fast moving pace and frequent long hours - good for the bank balance! Alternatively, the West End provides a wealth of different industries from media to marketing in ples and private companies.
- In addition, we are the only agency in London to give our temporary team AIR MILES* awards for every hour worked.
- If you have language skills we have a specialist language division to find you work.
- The sum total of this is can you afford not to register with Crone Corkill?

£ RING US NOW ON:

0171-434 4512

West End



* Air Miles and the Flying Red Bull are trademarks of UK MILES International Holdings Ltd. UK MILES awards are held and issued for use subject to AIR MILES Customer Terms and Conditions.

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

INVESTMENT BANK

£20,000 + Exc Pkge

We are currently working on behalf of an investment bank, looking for a French/German speaking sec. A professional, career secretary who wishes to use her languages. Working hours will be worked in banking hours and have fluent French and German in working and social environments. Please call Julie Chapman on 0171 499 5881

CONVEYANCING

IN THE CITY for £20,000

Our client, a prestigious law firm based in the city are looking for a conveyancing exp. Professional environment, very smart offices and good bens. This firm look for stable work history & exp typing & WP skills together with a professional manner. Please call Julie Chapman on 0171 499 5881

INT'L MGMT CONSULTANTS

£20,000

This organisation is looking for team players with exp Powerpoint skills to work in an environment dedicated to work, work work. Ext working environment / benefits offered. Only call us if you are a secretary with boundless energy, drive and commitment. Please call Julie Chapman on 0171 499 5881

Adecco Elite

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

ACCOUNT COORDINATOR
Leading PR agency, with young, buzzing culture, requires an account coordinator to provide support and administration to a team of 12 on a well known consumer brand account. Manage team diary, coordinate events, liaise with clients. Must have 1-2 years' PR experience, good knowledge of Excel and have 50wpm typing. £18,000+

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Very well known consumer PR agency. Must have at least 1 year's consumer PR and event management experience and 50wpm typing. £14-15,000

PUBLISHING ASSISTANT
Well known international publishing company requires an assistant to support the Head of International Sales and Marketing. General admin, secretarial work, travel arrangements. Must be fluent in German and have 50wpm typing. £12-15,000 p.a.

Please fax or send CVs to Julie Wood, 47 New Bond St, London W1T 9HA. Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

JFL

YOUNG CITY SEC

£16k + Free Travel + Bens

Fantastic role in top city sec, driving support to a dynamic personable director. Truly dynamic, lots of client liaison in busy, fast moving env. 20-30 sec admin duties include preparing materials for speeches/presentations, attending meetings - full PA sec support. Variety, challenge & good prospects awarded. 55wpm WP and 2hrs sec exp ess. (Exc Bens include free travel up to £2,400 p.a., free lunches, private health care, pension and life insurance - paid O.T.)

SENT EMPLOYMENT

TEL: 0171 287 3664 FAX: 0171 287 3564

THE MCKINLAY LAW PARTNERSHIP

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TEL (0171) 930 6060 FAX (0171) 930 6044

COLLEGE LEAVERS

Legal Secretary £14,500:
A major plc need a confident college leaver to assist their legal advisor. A legal secretarial certificate essential.

Marketing Secretary £14,000:
A prestigious city law firm are in need of a college leaver to assist their marketing manager. Excellent prospects.

Personnel Secretary £12,000:
A major city law firm need college leaver to join their recruitment department. Excellent benefits.

All vacancies require a minimum of 9 GCSE's at Grade B or above, a recognised secretarial certificate and 50wpm typing.

0171 930 6060

PR

Do you need to be needed? Fantastic 1st/2nd job opportunity working for a professional consultancy currently expanding in Europe. Using your excellent organisational skills and natural charm you will be responsible for the daily running of the office and will provide the backbone to this small company with big clients. If you are flexible, well presented and on the ball this is an ideal window for someone to really learn about PR. Fed up with not being included? This could be the one for you! W4W 40 wpm (minimal typing), languages a bonus. Salary 13K-15K AAE + package.

ANDERSON HOARE
0171 824 8821

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

£18-24 S.W.1

Our client is an influential international management consultancy, a market leader with the highest standards. They are offering exciting careers to 3 exceptional PA's and a Production Advisor, all of whom must have professional secretarial backgrounds. These positions need pro-active self-starters who are solution oriented and who have advanced Powerpoint, W4W & Excel. Your ability to handle pressure and your 'can-do' mentality when coping with ever-changing priorities are essential. Age 30yrs.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7778

JIGSAW



THEATRICAL ENTREPRENEUR

£19,000

Exciting PA for theatrical agent/producer. Need to be a self-starter, capable of leading the way, developing the business and sales initiative. Strong communication with exceptional administrative skills - wonderful opportunity for a PA with ambition and flair. Preferred age 22-35. Previous industry experience a bonus, shorthand (80wpm) and good typing.

TEL: 0171 499 6566 FAX: 0171 499 6320

GROSVENOR BUREAU

Insurance Team

Secretary £19,500 PA + Bens

SH or spend working industry if ground essential. Ideal position for person who is not used to working a day up. Ex. pens & benefits. City Co.

Property PA/WI

£21,000 PA

Excellent position for person who is not used to working a day up. Ex. pens & benefits. City Co.

Litigation Sec

£21,000 PA 77 + Bens

Excellent PA for a person who is not used to working a day up. Ex. pens & benefits. City Co.

Tel No 0171-284-4777 New Career Moves.

Knightsbridge PA

£20-25,000

A real 'one off'! Fabulous opportunity to be PA to this entrepreneurial, wealthy Businessman with fingers in a lot of pies - Hotels, Restaurants and property to name just a few. Working in informal but professional offices not only will you be organising his busy work schedule, but also coping with the demands of his lifestyle - organising Lunches, Dinners, Diaries, Travel Itineraries etc - anything and everything! Sense of humour important along with confidence and maturity. Age 28-35. 60wpm + Windows. Imm start.

ANDERSON HOARE
0171 824 8821

Career Secretary

£22,000

Blue Chip Secretary

£20,000

Fine Arts Secretary

£18,000

For more details please call

Tel: 0171 499 5406

Fax: 0171 499 4878

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Susan Hamilton Personnel

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PA

West London, (Hounslow)

£19-22K + car parking

Our client requires a diplomatic and strong team player to assist in the running of this CE's office. You will work with him, his Exec Assistant and a team administrator to provide a first class support service.

Key skills: Board level experience, good admin ability, shorthand (80wpm) and IT literacy.

Please fax your CV to

Janette Tenger & Associates

Human Resource Management Consultants

Fax: 0181 847 5208 Tel: 0181 568 5516

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PUBLISHING

£22,000

Busy MD of publishing house requires efficient senior level PA. Usual senior level role requiring tact, diplomacy and initiative. Charming boss but needs organising. High admin content and own correspondence etc. Previous media/publishing background preferred. 90wpm shorthand, good typing + Windows.

TEL: 0171 499 6566 FAX: 0171 493 6320

GROSVENOR BUREAU

JULIA ROSS PERSONNEL

TEMPORARY BOOKINGS

Secretary W4W

Exciting Environment City 09/06/97 - ongoing

PA Apple Mac

Top Money/Blue Chip Co West End immediately - 3 weeks

Group Sec WP 5.1

Fabulous boss City 06/06/97 - 1 week

DTP Fun team City 05/06/97 - 1 month

P/Point

Please contact Rachelle on (0171) 836 5666 or Fax your C.V. (0171) 836 5566.

WE'VE GOT JUNE, BUT WHERE'S TERRY?

If you feel there's something missing in your life then maybe it's time for a career review. Our Baker Street team are genuinely inundated with some really wonderful full & part time vacancies, some to start immediately. So, make this a great start to your summer & choose from one of these:

SECRETARY £15,000 MARYLEBONE

An ideal opening for those looking to develop upon their HR experience. Assisting an extremely busy Personnel Manager you'll oversee office administration (including diary management), handle telephone enquiries plus deal with staff records, so a confidential, hard working attitude will prove an invaluable asset. Offers a wide variety of company benefits.

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST to £14,000 NOTTING HILL

Based on a very stylish Front Desk, this is a great opportunity for a bright spark to gain a busy, varied role, acting as the pivotal point of contact for staff & visitors alike at this exclusive Sixth Form College. You'll need a professional but personable approach, both over the phone & face to face, but in return you'll join a friendly, sociable team in a role which offers six weeks annual holiday & a twice yearly bonus.

SECRETARY £15,000 HAMPSTEAD

Join this go-getting Sales team & we guarantee - you'll never have a dull moment! Set right in the heart of Hampstead Village, this is a great opportunity for a 2nd jobber to use their creative side, as apart from providing general 60 wpm Secretarial support you'll also design mailshots/graphics & have scope to really use your initiative. Shorthand is essential.

Call REBEKAH now on 0171 935 7248. We're positive we can really make a difference. 111 Baker Street, London, W1M 1FE.



Power PA

£19,000 + Bonus & Bens

This well established group of companies are looking for a dynamic Career Secretary to work alongside their Sales & Marketing Director. Full involvement is absolutely guaranteed so a background in this field is essential along with excellent skills (including Powerpoint). If you are of an outgoing nature with an amazing sense of humour and want to look forward to getting up every morning...

Call SAM this afternoon for an immediate interview.

This is one of many senior vacancies we are currently dealing with and welcome all you unchallenged PA's who are ready to move into a more professional and dynamic environment. Salary expectations should be between £18-22K.

Look forward to meeting you at Crone 97, Earls Court!

Tel: 0171 287 0220

Personnel Recruitment

181 Old St London W1

Fax: 0171 287 1060

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR W1

Excellent Salary & Benefits

Are you pro-active, with excellent interpersonal skills and able to fulfil an important support role to the H.R. management team of a blue chip Firm?

Practical and organised, you must be well presented and able to deal with customers at all levels. 60wpm typing W4W, and Excel essential.

Ring NATASHA today on

0171 235 7114

An equal opportunity employer.

SENIOR SEC - EC2

£20,000 + GREAT BEN.

Presigious, commercial on based in stunning City office requires experienced secretary to support him but not bookkeeping team.

Variety of duties, lots of involvement, flexibility a must. 60wpm, W4W & good conversational French or German essential. Age 24-30.

Call Rachel on 0171 638 6625. (Bakers Rec Const.)

BEAVERS

Personnel Recruitment Consultants

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

CHAMBERLAIN'S Admin PA, £20K

Top team, 5th Floor, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, 3rd Floor, 4th Floor, 5th Floor, 6th Floor, 7th Floor, 8th Floor, 9th Floor, 10th Floor, 11th Floor, 12th Floor, 13th Floor, 14th Floor, 15th Floor, 16th Floor, 17th Floor, 18th Floor, 19th Floor, 20th Floor, 21st Floor, 22nd Floor, 23rd Floor, 24th Floor, 25th Floor, 26th Floor, 27th Floor, 28th Floor, 29th Floor, 30th Floor, 31st Floor, 32nd Floor, 33rd Floor, 34th Floor, 35th Floor, 36th Floor, 37th Floor, 38th Floor, 39th Floor, 40th Floor, 41st Floor, 42nd Floor, 43rd Floor, 44th Floor, 45th Floor, 46th Floor, 47th Floor, 48th Floor, 49th Floor, 50th Floor, 51st Floor, 52nd Floor, 53rd Floor, 54th Floor, 55th Floor, 56th Floor, 57th Floor, 58th Floor, 59th Floor, 60th Floor, 61st Floor, 62nd Floor, 63rd Floor, 64th Floor, 65th Floor, 66th Floor, 67th Floor, 68th Floor, 69th Floor, 70th Floor, 71st Floor, 72nd Floor, 73rd Floor, 74th Floor, 75th Floor, 76th Floor, 77th Floor, 78th Floor, 79th Floor, 80th Floor, 81st Floor, 82nd Floor, 83rd Floor, 84th Floor, 85th Floor, 86th Floor, 87th Floor, 88th Floor, 89th Floor, 90th Floor, 91st Floor, 92nd Floor, 93rd Floor, 94th Floor, 95th Floor, 96th Floor, 97th Floor, 98th Floor, 99th Floor, 100th Floor, 101st Floor, 102nd Floor, 103rd Floor, 104th Floor, 105th Floor, 106th Floor, 107th Floor, 108th Floor, 109th Floor, 110th Floor, 111th Floor, 112th Floor, 113th Floor, 114th Floor, 115th Floor, 116th Floor, 117th Floor, 118th Floor, 119th Floor, 120th Floor, 121st Floor, 122nd Floor, 123rd Floor, 124th Floor, 125th Floor, 126th Floor, 127th Floor, 128th Floor, 129th Floor, 130th Floor, 131st Floor, 132nd Floor, 133rd Floor, 134th Floor, 135th Floor, 136th Floor, 137th Floor, 138th Floor, 139th Floor, 140th Floor, 141st Floor, 142nd Floor, 143rd Floor, 144th Floor, 145th Floor, 146th Floor, 147th Floor, 148th Floor, 149th Floor, 150th Floor, 151st Floor, 152nd Floor, 153rd Floor, 154th Floor, 155th Floor, 156th Floor, 157th Floor, 158th Floor, 159th Floor, 160th Floor, 161st Floor, 162nd Floor, 163rd Floor, 164th Floor, 165th Floor, 166th Floor, 167th Floor, 168th Floor, 169th Floor, 170th Floor, 171st Floor, 172nd Floor, 173rd Floor, 174th Floor, 175th Floor, 176th Floor, 177th Floor, 178th Floor, 179th Floor, 180th Floor, 181st Floor, 182nd Floor, 183rd Floor, 184th Floor, 185th Floor, 186th Floor, 187th Floor, 188th Floor, 189th Floor, 190th Floor, 191st Floor, 192nd Floor, 193rd Floor, 194th Floor, 195th Floor, 196th Floor, 197th Floor, 198th Floor, 199th Floor, 200th Floor, 201st Floor, 202nd Floor, 203rd Floor, 204th Floor, 205th Floor, 206th Floor, 207th Floor, 208th Floor, 209th Floor, 210th

CREME DE LA CREME

ONE
WEEK
TO

THE TIMES
Crème
97

The Times Crème '97 is just one week away. If you haven't already arranged to visit the exhibition, or attend any of the seminars, now's the time to do it!

THE TIMES
Crème
97

You can meet representatives from 150 companies, attend informative seminars on a vast range of essential topics, and for some light entertainment, enjoy spectacular fashion shows.

THE TIMES
Crème
97

Experts will be on hand to offer advice on corporate hospitality, stationery, office equipment, business technology, hotels, conferences, recruitment, secretarial support, careers, training, promotions, incentives, despatch and distribution.

THE TIMES
Crème
97

The show is open from 10am to 5pm on Wednesday 11th June to Friday 13th June.

ENTRANCE IS FREE

and you can register on the door, on the day. There are still tickets available for many seminars on all three days of the show, and these can be purchased at the show, on a first-come, first-served basis. For full information on Crème '97, don't forget to read the Crème de la Crème supplement on Thursday 5th June.

Behind every successful Director General is a super-efficient PA.

The Automobile Association is one of the largest organisations of its kind in the world. With interests ranging from roadside rescue and retailing to publishing and insurance, it is one of the best known and most diversified businesses in Britain today. And it's still growing. And your challenge is to help our newly-appointed Director General to drive through a host of far-reaching initiatives and developments.

Your first priority will be to organise his working life. Diary management, for example, is a critical. A complicated mix of internal and external meetings, overseas trips and other business functions make this very demanding. Do you have the maturity and experience to juggle the elements, plan complex itineraries and still maintain an unflappable manner?

Can you also lead by example? In any quality organisation, high standards have to start at the top before they can filter downwards. Your brief is to set an example, earn (rather than command) respect and encourage everyone to strive for excellence. Organising and leading a small team to support the Director General and Chairman is a key part of this role. Drawing upon all your experience of working

for a Chief Executive, you will be responsible for developing an efficient and highly professional office.

Can you confidently work with such senior managers? Would you like to be closely involved in all our exciting developments for the future? And, of course, do you have the vital technical credentials - good shorthand and audio skills, and proven PC skills (ideally Word for Windows)?

It's a lot to expect. The pace of life is fast and uncompromising. There'll be a great deal of hard work and pressure not to mention some occasional long hours - these all come with the territory. But, in return, we guarantee a lot of appreciation, satisfaction, high-level involvement, responsibility, fun, real challenge and, of course, an excellent salary and benefits package.

Please write, in total confidence, quoting ref: 731, to: Alastair Lyon, Response Handling Service, Associates In Advertising, 5 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BH.

AA



As an equal opportunity employer, we welcome applications from people in every part of the community

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

PA FLUENT FRENCH

Working for the Chairman of this international IT Consultancy you will be a dynamic right hand. Assisting in all matters, you will administer and organise all aspects of his personal and business affairs. Experience at a similar level and a flexible approach to hours essential. Spanish a bonus.

PA FLUENT ARABIC AND FRENCH £21K - W-END
A true PA role now exists to assist the MD of the prestigious multinational company. You will possess exceptional writing and organisational skills and an ability to liaise with people at all levels.

PA FLUENT GERMAN £20K - FRANKFURT
This world leading automotive company is now seeking a PA to work with the MD of their European HQ in Germany. You will be a true professional with a project oriented focus and creative flair.

Please call Rebecca Ocharie direct on 0171 447 5548.

A Division of Graduate Appointments

£30K - W-END

Working for the Chairman of this international IT Consultancy you will be a dynamic right hand. Assisting in all matters, you will administer and organise all aspects of his personal and business affairs. Experience at a similar level and a flexible approach to hours essential. Spanish a bonus.

PA FLUENT ARABIC AND FRENCH £21K - W-END
A true PA role now exists to assist the MD of the prestigious multinational company. You will possess exceptional writing and organisational skills and an ability to liaise with people at all levels.

PA FLUENT GERMAN £20K - FRANKFURT
This world leading automotive company is now seeking a PA to work with the MD of their European HQ in Germany. You will be a true professional with a project oriented focus and creative flair.

Please call Rebecca Ocharie direct on 0171 447 5548.

A Division of Graduate Appointments

FRENCH MARKETING

Do you speak French? Do you have marketing experience? If so, we have a fantastic opportunity for you. We are looking for a French speaking marketing professional to join our team. The role involves developing and implementing marketing strategies for our French speaking clients. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar role and will be fluent in French and English. The salary is £20,000 per annum. Please send your CV to: French Marketing, 123 Main Street, London EC1A 1AA.

AMSTERDAM!
Dutch bid for Amsterdam office of major UK co. On communication & exp. skills. Salary £20,000 per annum. Please send your CV to: Amsterdam Office, 123 Main Street, London EC1A 1AA.

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES
0171 287 0424

CREME DE LA CREME

Unmistakable

PP-Ex fluid

Unmistakable

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As sponsors, Angela Mortimer Plc are delighted to have invested in the very first all women's polar expedition. We would like to take this opportunity to offer our congratulations to those who completed this challenging venture.



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CRICKET

Surrey must wait for foreign aid to arrive

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SURREY have yet to win a game in the Britannic Assurance championship this season and the pundits suggest that they will struggle to make a start this week. The ante-post favourites, who meet Essex at the Oval today, are missing four England players, have two men struggling with injuries and are still without an overseas player.

Officials at the Oval are understandably torn by the international achievements of their players. Four of their top six batsmen are absent today and the position could worsen if either Alex Tudor or Ben Hollis graduate to Test

against Leicestershire, two days later, but it will be the championship partnership with the leg spin of Ian Salisbury that will add significantly to Surrey's strength.

Joey Benjamin and Nadeem Shahid will have fitness tests before the Surrey team is announced this morning. So, too, will Paul Prichard, the Essex captain who is suffering from a groin strain. With Nasser Hussain away with England, Graham Gooch is on standby to lead the team.

Glamorgan, the leaders, have no game today and Gloucestershire, in second place, are without David Lawrence for their tough examination at Headingley. Lawrence is injured once more: his comeback, though brave and romantic, is beginning to look short-lived.

Two of the counties queuing behind them, Kent and Warwickshire, have fitness worries for their meeting at Tunbridge Wells. Graham Cowdrey, of Kent, has torn a hamstring, and Allan Donald's back strain continues to keep him out of a Warwickshire side that may also miss Ashley Giles, who has a shin injury.

It needed luck with injuries, as well as ability and tenacity, for Leicestershire to win the title last season, and it is not being so kind now. David Millns has a knee strain and James Ormond will probably replace him at Lord's today, against a Middlesex side in erratic form.

Chris Adams has been named in the Derbyshire team, despite disputing a club fine for dissent, and Kim Barnett also returns against Hampshire at Chesterfield. Nottinghamshire, whose overseas player saga has been a farce this year, try yet another one by giving Nathan Aspinall, the New Zealander, his debut at Northampton.

His debut will either be in the Sunday League game against Essex or the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final

cricket before the summer is out. Both play today.

Surrey have championship fixtures clashing with each of the first five Tests, one good reason why they have abandoned their intention of getting through the season without foreign aid. It had been hoped that Saqlain Mushtaq, their acquisition from Pakistan, would be available this week, but he is not now due to arrive in the country until tomorrow.

His debut will either be in the Sunday League game against Essex or the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final

cricket before the summer is out. Both play today.

BBC strives to set new boundaries for Ashes coverage

Expect slicker BBC television coverage when the clash for the Ashes opens at Edgbaston tomorrow. The corporation has made a number of changes to its programme, which will start five minutes earlier on some days, ten minutes on others, to help viewers to savour the big-match build-up.

A roving reporter — Simon Hughes — has been commissioned to obtain speedier player interviews and there will be a more considered précis of the day's play at the close. Greater thought has also gone into the interval features, which kick off tomorrow with David Gower recalling England's last successful home Ashes

campaign (under his captaincy in 1985).

An editor of cricket, Philip Barrie, has been appointed to oversee the innovations. "I am just improving things around the edges," he said modestly yesterday. "The real stars of the show are the commentary team, which is the best in the business." The guest summariser will be Ian Chappell.

Sounds ropery...

The second great theft of the season — the first being the disappearance of Mark Taylor's confidence — took place at the weekend. Groundstaff at the County Ground, Bristol, returned to work to find that the boundary rope — measur-



ing 200 metres in length by 2.5cm in diameter — had vanished.

"The rope is very heavy and would take more than one man to lift it," a bewildered member of the groundstaff said yesterday. "It must have been taken away in a van — it is too big to get into a car. We have told the police, but it will be hard to identify, as there are no markings on it."

Gloucestershire do not play at home again until next Thursday, by which time the club may have purchased another rope. "They cost about £300," our source said gloomily. "We could make do with a white line and some flags, I suppose."

Health disservice

Nottinghamshire may have had some good fortune with the National Lottery commission, but that is about where their luck ends this season. A row has engulfed Mohammad Zahid, the overseas player

who was released, and yesterday replaced by Nathan Aspinall, without playing a match.

Zahid, the promising young Pakistan fast bowler, is stricken with a back injury that threatens his career. Zahid believes that his best hope is to seek treatment in England, but the Pakistan board wants him to return home for medical assistance and is not prepared to foot the bill unless he does so.

Sources close to the player have accused Majid Khan, the chief executive of the Pakistan board, of letting insurance policies on players lapse. Majid denies that there is a dispute. "The medical check-ups suggest he has a long-term problem, but our doctors

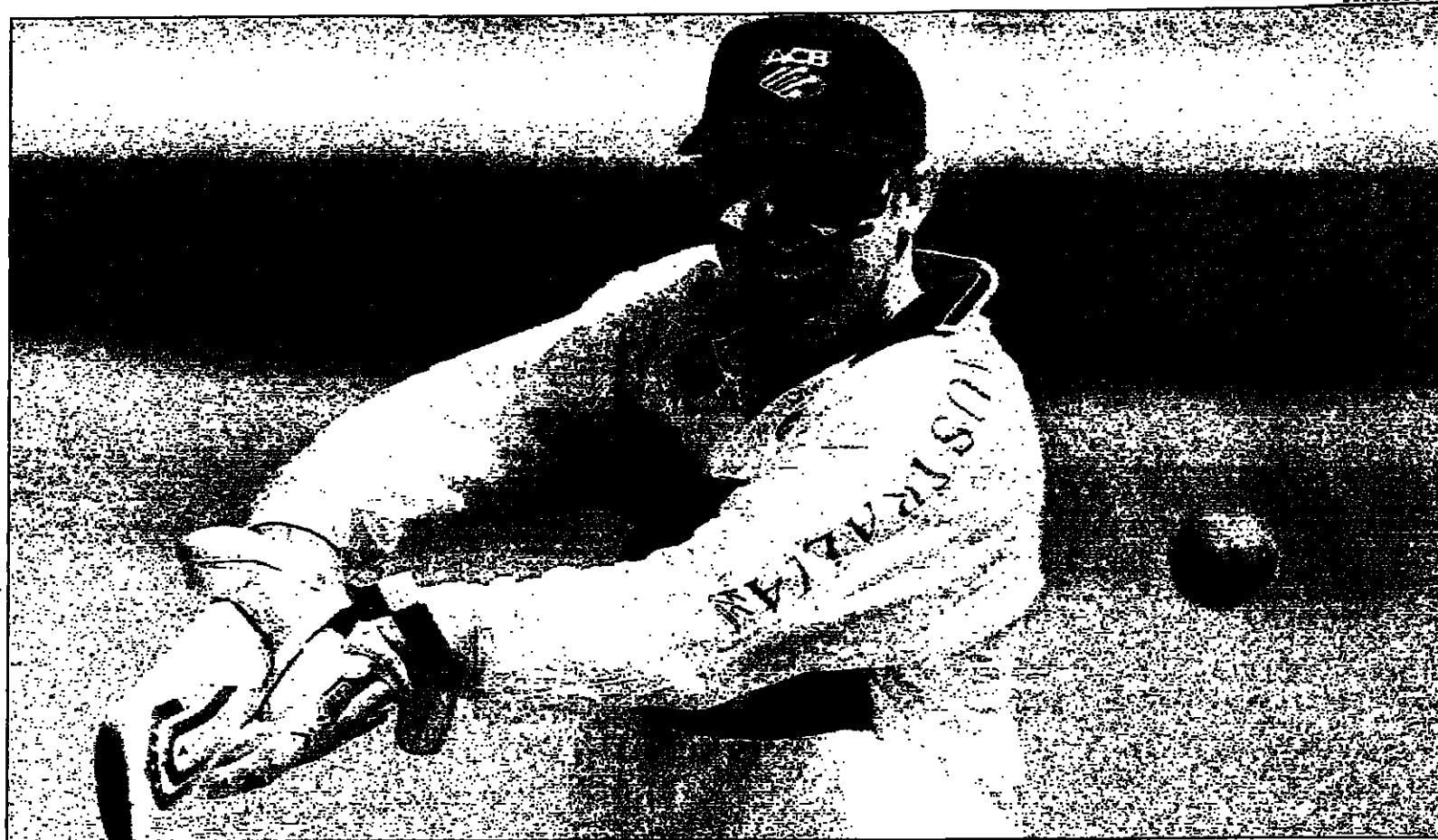
are as good here as they are in London," he said from Lahore yesterday. "If he wants treatment in England, that is his business." Zahid is now attempting to raise the funds himself. Nottinghamshire, who have acted honourably throughout, have offered to make a contribution.

One-day blunder? Dermot Reeve, famed for his innovative thinking and the best one-day captain England never had, is rumoured to have written a special clause into his contract when he joined Somerset as coach last winter. It stipulates that he need not watch any match in the Axa Life League — the one-

day competition in which Reeve made Warwickshire supreme. Hardly surprising, then, that Somerset are languishing in the middle of the table, with just two wins in six matches.

Old fixation

It seems to be the form these days for retired cricketers from the subcontinent to reveal sordid tales of match-fixing. The newest member of the club is Manoj Prabhakar, the former India all-rounder, who alleges that his country's shameful defeat by England in the 1987 World Cup semi-final in Bombay may have been the result of fixing. Until now, it was believed that India's de-



Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, practises at Edgbaston yesterday in preparation for the first Test match. Report page 52.

Waugh means peace and harmony

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

I was so predictable, you could not help but laugh. The ball was on a line of leg and middle and Mark Waugh drove it to the mid-wicket boundary to get off the mark. Two balls later, he played a similar stroke. Only this time the shot was gentler, the ball took a little longer to touch the ropes and the after-glow was warmer.

It looked regal and yet it was also casual: a trick only one batsman in a thousand can pull off. Waugh is that batsman. There are many reasons for welcoming the start of another Ashes series, and as compelling as any is the prospect of watching the most beautiful player in the world at the height of his powers.

Who knows? If he feels sufficiently roused by Australia's indifferent start to this tour, he may, in the weeks ahead, approach the greatness that lies within him.

Those on-side strokes, at Bristol last week, represented an unfurling of the banner. They bore his stamp, just as surely as they identified Greg Chappell as the most handsome batsman of his day, 20

years ago. Most Australian batsmen, by temperament and style, are not flowery. Chappell, going against the grain, batted as if he wore emperor's raiment and Waugh, though not quite so imperial, could easily pass for a prince.

Sometimes, if you half-close your eyes on a sunlit day when Waugh is at the crease, and watch him play those strokes that more prolific batsmen wished they had, you get an impression of what cricket used to be like, if the accounts of the old-timers are reliable. There is something of a morning-dream about his batting, of the game played purely for pleasure, of "kissing the joy as it flies".

Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar are probably "better" players, and Steve Waugh is more copper-bottomed in his reliability, but, for sheer watchability, there is no more rapid batsman in the modern game than M. E. Waugh. If, for a lark, runs were awarded for aesthetic merit, he might easily make a hundred from ten balls every time he went out to bat.

Yet what makes Waugh

was talking of John Betjeman, another man whose amiable public image failed to disguise a steel-eyed purpose. Because Waugh has a dolphin-friendly face, it does not follow that he will perform tricks for cheap applause. It is just that, when somebody plays with such little apparent effort, people sometimes wonder whether they can really be serious.

To some extent, the perception of Waugh as a soft touch is his own fault. He made 138 in his first Test innings, against England in Adelaide six years ago, and has exceeded it only once (and then by two runs) in his subsequent ten hundreds. He averages 43 when a player of his class should be making 50 every time. Facts do not mean everything, but they do mean something, and Waugh should amend his record in the years left to him.

At Bristol last week, when there was a hundred to be taken, he was out an over before lunch for 66, caught at mid-on as he tried to hit a spinner over the top. Aha, some will say, he is maker of glorious 70s and 80s; he should make more hundreds.

When Alan Bennett said that "dandies are tough", he

True, but we need pleasure-givers as well as the type of batsmen who wear bowlers down. Danny Blanchflower, who knew all about glory, believed that luxury players were precisely the ones you could not not afford. In the successful Australia side that he has grown up in, Waugh is a necessary adornment.

I mention this because, too often, cricket talk is about sledging, ball-tampering, over rates, intimidatory bowling, and whatnot. There is also the barrel-load of dressing-room banalities, of commitment, no quarter being asked (nor, indeed, given), things being "taken on board", and "input".

Essentially, though, cricket is about bowlers trying to rip out three poles at the other end and batsmen trying to whack the ball across a meadow. When we bowl in our dreams, we imagine ourselves to be Dennis Lillee or Wasim Akram. When we bat, we play shots with the unhurried serenity of Mark Waugh. This should be a great summer. Open your ears and enjoy the beguiling song that is about to begin.

feat was because of one of the greatest one-day innings ever played, a century by Graham Gooch.

Prabhakar, who also stated that he was offered money to throw a match against Sri Lanka in 1994, makes his claims in the forthcoming issue of *Outlook*, the Indian magazine, famous for reporting the candid observations of Brian Lara after West Indies were beaten by Kenya in the World Cup last year. Ajit Wadekar, who coached India in one of the games referred to by Prabhakar, was philosophical. "When you are out of the reckoning, you tend to imagine things," he said.

FATHER TIMES

IT EMPHASISED The age-old problem of squeezing four innings into two days. Ideally, three or four days would suit the purpose, as in the second XI championship for first-class counties this summer, but this remains a non-starter, Gilbert said. "As a contract surveyor, my company is very supportive. My cricket involvement goes down well with them and I get 15 days of my 21 days annual leave to play for Hertfordshire."

Gary Loveday, who is in his second season as Berkshire captain, is relishing the prospect of making his hundredth championship appearance against Shropshire at Hurst on Tuesday. Loveday, 33, is within 500 runs of the county's championship record of 6,970, set by Tony Davis, who played from 1950 to 1974.

Loveday believes that the signing of Neil Kendrick, the former Surrey and Glamorgan spinner, will add another dimension to Berkshire's season. "The initial contact came through our wicketkeeper, Mark Lane, who knows Neil," Loveday said. "His experience will be valuable."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Toulon de France
Ipswich v England
Ipswich v France

CRICKET
Britannic Assurance
county championship
1st day of two
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v
Hampshire
CHESTER-LE-STRIT: Durham v
Sussex
TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Kent v
Gloucestershire

LORD'S: Middlesex v Lancashire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v
Nottinghamshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Lancashire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Essex
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v
Gloucestershire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: First day of
four
Abbotsbury: School, Rotherham
v Sussex
Hemel Hempstead: Essex v
Gloucestershire

Northamptonshire: Tuffley Park, Gloucester
Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
Southampton: Hampshire v Surrey
Leamington: Middlesex v Durham
2nd day of four
KIDDERMINSTER: Worcestershire v
Somerset

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP:
First day of two
Buckinghamshire v Staffordshire
Buckinghamshire v Staffordshire

RUGBY UNION
Tour match
Mumukshu v British Isles XV
(at Warrington, 2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE
Second division
Barnsley v Leigh (7.30)

OTHER SPORT
GOLF: The Amateur Championship (at
Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports)
international match, Great Britain and
Ireland v South Africa (at Latham Grange)
MOTORCYCLING: TT races (Isle of Man)
TENNIS: Surrey international championship (at Surbiton)

FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting
Qualification: 500 runs completed innings

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
1 G D Lloyd (Lancashire)	4	7	1	589	225	86.16	3	2
2 H Morris (Gloucestershire)	5	7	1	583	233	82.97	2	2
3 T Smith (Cambridge Unit)	5	8	2	515	190	64.38	1	3
4 S P James (Gloucestershire)	5	7	0	575	153	81.85	2	4
5 S G Law (Essex)	4	7	1	476	118	79.33	1	4
6 M R Ramprakash (Middlesex)	5	7	1	443	145	73.83	3	1
7 M L Hayden (Hampshire)	5	9	2	404	235	72.00	2	1
8 D S Lehmann (Northamptonshire)	4	7	0	455	177	65.00	1	3
9 M W Gatting (Middlesex)	5	7	1	381	150	63.50	2	1
10 D L Hemp (Warwickshire)	5	8	2	369	138	61.50	2	1
11 B Parker (Northamptonshire)	4	7	1	339	128	56.50	2	1
12 B C Parker (Essex)	4	7	1	337	175	56.16	1	1
13 A Habib (Leicestershire)	4	7	1	336	156	56.00	1	1
14 N C Johnson (Leicestershire)	4	7	1	336	156	56.00	1	1
15 A J Miles (Warwickshire)	4	8	2	332	168	55.33	1	1
16 M A Cunliffe (Northamptonshire)	4	7	1	326	108	54.33	1	1
17 D Brice (Northamptonshire)	4	7	1	320	128	53.33	2	1
18 D C Boon (Durham)	4	7	1	321	85	52.62	1	5
19 J E R Gubbins (Leicestershire)	5	9	1	406	106	50.75	1	3
20 D M Jones (Derbyshire)	6	10	1	449	99	49.88	1	5
21 J B Lawes (Durham)	6	9	1	385	210	48.12	1	1
22 S G Curran (Worcestershire)	4	6	0	271	113	45.16	2	1
23 J F Horne (Durham)	6	10	1	395	149	43.88	1	1
24 D F Fulton (Ipswich)	4	7	1	260	94	43.33	1	1
25 G A Hick (Warwickshire)	5	7	1	255	164	42.50	1	1

* denotes not out

Bowling
Qualification: 100 wickets

	O	M	R	W	Ave	BB	5W	10W
1 P J Newport (Worcestershire)	222	30	200	14	14.28	7-37	1	1
2 A M Smith (Gloucestershire)	153	41	359	23	15.60	6-45	1	1
3 P H White (Gloucestershire)	124	34	347	21	16.52	5-66	1	1
4 D R Brown (Warwickshire)	124.3	34	349	21	16.61	5-106	1	1
5 P C R Turner (Middlesex)	99.5	35	205	12	17.08	4-84	1	1
6 R B O'Connell (Gloucestershire)	131	36	324	18	18.00	4-64	1	1
7 P A J Doolittle (Derbyshire)	150.1	41	452	25	18.08	7-64	2	1
8 S W White (Australia)	72.2	15	245	13	18.84	2-103	1	1
9 M W Atkinson (Gloucestershire)	91.4	30	264	14	18.85	6-64	1	1
10 D E Malcom (Derbyshire)	133.5	31	622	34	18.27	6-72	3	1
11 A A Donald (Warwickshire)	101.4	29	512	11	18.27	4-55	1	1
12 M J McCague (Ipswich)	154.2	30	527	27	19.51	7-80	1	1
13 M N Brown (Nottinghamshire)	170.3	48	451	23	19.60	7-75	2	1
14 D Gough (Yorkshire)	114.5	25	408	20	20.40	5-55	1	1
15 P M Smith (Essex)	188.4	56	454	22	20.63	6-55	3	1
16 M C Smith (Essex)	130.4	42	354	17	20.82	4-82	1	1
17 M V Fleming (Kent)	86.5	26	234	11	21.27	5-61	1	1
18 A Cheney (Warwickshire)	143	37	412	19	21.68	5-54	1	1
19 R L Johnson (Middlesex)	123.3	35	461	21	21.95	4-56	1	1
20 D J Minto (Derbyshire)	144.3	31	430	19	22.63	4-54	1	1
21 K J Doolittle (Derbyshire)	111.5	22	378	17	22.23	4-39	1	1
22 R D Smith (Yorkshire)	153	35	458	21	22.28	6-77	1	1
23 A R Coddick (Somerset)	216.1	42	600	26	23.07	6-55	3	1
24 S D Thomas (Gloucestershire)	88.5	17	300	13	23.07	4-62	1	1
25 G D Hirst (Somerset)	120	29	335	14	23.92	3-35	1	1

© Source: TCBSA Cricket Record

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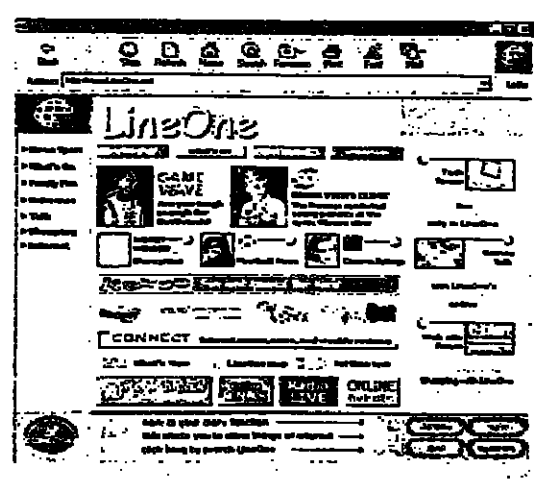
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RACING: GOSDEN BOOKS NEWMARKET JOCKEY FOR DANTE WINNER

Ryan given plum Derby ride on Benny The Dip

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

WILLIE RYAN, whose last Derby mount unseated him approaching Tattenham Corner, yesterday picked up the plum spare ride on Benny The Dip in the Epsom classic on Saturday.

"He's ridden a lot of good horses for Henry Cecil. He is a good judge of pace and has a level head," John Gosden, trainer of the Dante Stakes winner, said.

Ryan has ridden in the Derby three times before, including finishing fourth on Faraway Dancer behind Shahrastani in 1986. However, he was less fortunate on Foyer three years ago when he was unceremoniously dumped on the ground six furlongs from home.

Benny The Dip made all the running to win the Dante Stakes at York three weeks ago but a doubt remains about him being able to stay the

demanding mile and a half at Epsom. "On the dam's side there is a worry, but his sire, Silver Hawk, is a great influence for stamina and he is a very relaxed horse in his racing and those type of horses often outstay their pedigree," Gosden added.

His two pieces of work since the Dante have been his sharpest, so he is coming into the race in top form.

Nonetheless, Gosden shares the view held by most racing professionals that racegoers would be in for a special treat on Saturday as short-priced favourites. "No horse is unbeatable, but he has first-rate credentials. He won the best Derby trial (the 2,000 Guineas), has an excellent pedigree and is a well-balanced horse."

"I think we are coming to watch a proper horse win the Derby; one we are lucky to be around to see."

Gosden's remarks were echoed yesterday by Lester

Piggott and Willie Carson. "I have never even thought about Entrepreneur being beaten. I think he could be an exceptional horse," Piggott said. The nine-times Derby-winning rider nominated Benny The Dip and Cloudings, trained by André Fabre, as his two each-way alternatives.

Carson, speaking before a lunch given in his honour at Epsom yesterday, said: "It looks as though Entrepreneur is the class horse, although after the French Derby Cloudings must come into the reckoning. Everybody says it is a one-horse race, but he still has to compete with Epsom racecourse. It is never a one-horse race at Epsom."

"Entrepreneur has gone down the same road as Nashwan, the last horse to complete the 2,000 Guineas-Derby double. He's a speed horse, like Nashwan, but they are different in the sense that Nashwan was a big, rangy horse while Entrepreneur is a

smaller, compact horse, more like Sir Ivor."

While Entrepreneur is the inevitable focus of attention in the run-up to Saturday, other pieces in the Derby jigsaw fell into place yesterday with Peter Chapple-Hyam announcing that both Romanov and Single Empire, the Italian Derby winner, will run.

Barry Hills expects Michael, his son, to partner Musalsal, while Ray Cochrane has been booked for The Fly. "I think both horses will be in the first five," Hills said.

Ben Hanbury was particularly bullish about Fahris, the Fildes Stakes winner, who has moved fully from a sinus problem and did the best piece of work ever yesterday morning.

Grapsot, the Predominate Stakes winner, looks likely to miss the race after developing what his trainer, Luca Cumani, described as a "minor physical problem."



Carson shows off a picture of his four Derby winners presented at a lunch in his honour at Epsom yesterday

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER	
2.30 Shegardi	4.00 Noufari
3.00 Boater	5.00 DOUBLE J (nap)
3.30 Captain Carol	5.30 Sun Mark

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.00 BOATER.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Shegardi.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 6-4-32: GOOD TIMES 74 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88	course and distance winner. BF - broken towards in later race. Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, soft - G - good, S - soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets. Trainer, Age and weight. Race place any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating
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GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM ON ROUND COURSE)
DRAW: 5F-11M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.30 BET COMPELLING TIMEFORM COMMENTARIES STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,068; 5f) (8 runners)

1 (6) ATLANTIC VIKING 20 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88	2 (12) 6-4-32: GOOD TIMES 74 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88
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3.00 BUCKLAND AUSTIN HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £5,890; 11m) (8 runners)

1 (6) ATLANTIC VIKING 20 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88	2 (12) 6-4-32: GOOD TIMES 74 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88
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3.30 CAPTAIN CAROL HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £3,068; 5f) (8 runners)

1 (6) ATLANTIC VIKING 20 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88	2 (12) 6-4-32: GOOD TIMES 74 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88
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3.45 CAPTAIN CAROL HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £3,068; 5f) (8 runners)

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Pontefract	6.30 Signs And Wanders. 7.00 Tertum. 7.30 Folklore. 8.00 Regal Eagle. 8.30 Mountgate. 9.00 Generous Libra.
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6.30 TEAM RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,254; 1m 100yds) (4 runners)

1 (6) ATLANTIC VIKING 20 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88	2 (12) 6-4-32: GOOD TIMES 74 (100.0F, 6.5) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0-0 B West 41 88
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7.00 KENNEDY WATTS PARTNERSHIP CONSULTING ENGINEERS HANDICAP (£3,444; 1m 100yds) (4 runners)

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7.30 HILARY NEEDLER TROPHY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O; £9,277; 5f) (10 runners)

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FOOTBALL

Maldini on hiding to nothing in tournament too far

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

CESARE MALDINI, the veteran Italy manager, appointed in mid-stream, will be rounding up the usual suspects this evening against England in Nantes, but he will do it reluctantly. He would much rather the Tournoi de France had not come along at all.

In short, he and Italy are on a hiding to nothing. Thrown in at the deep end when Arrigo Sacchi, an unpopular predecessor, resigned last year, Maldini radically changed tactics from 4-2-2 to his beloved sweeper-based catenaccio. He is unbeaten since taking over and masterminded the 1-0 World Cup qualifying victory over England at Wembley in February.

This time, however, Maldini has had no time to prepare his team: the last league games in Italy took place only on Sunday. Though the tournament too far — as Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, has aptly named it — is of no ultimate significance, Maldini knows that he has created a climate of expectation in Italy, where, it is said, the national team has 50 million managers.

He cannot call on Roberto Baggio or Fabrizio Ravanelli, both in such fine form when Italy beat Poland in their most recent match, another World Cup qualifier, in Naples. Each is injured. Also, he has a goalkeeper, Angelo Peruzzi, who could well still be in a state of distraction.

Before Juventus played Borussia Dortmund in the European Cup final in Munich last week, Italy's sports papers were trumpeting Peruzzi as his team's hero, a solid guarantee of success. In the

event, he had a dreadful game. This, according to one Turin sports writer, was directly caused by the fact that, on the eve of the final, he was flying between Munich and Turin to attend the birth of his daughter. "Had she been born two days later, Juventus would have won the game," the journalist wrote. Quite a heavy burden for an infant to bring into the world.

No doubt Peruzzi's loss of

TEAM

ITALY (probable, 3-5-2): A. Peruzzi (Juventus); A. Costacurta (Milan); C. Ferreri (Juventus); F. Cannavaro (Parma); A. Di Lorenzo (Juventus); C. Peruzzi (Roma); R. Di Matteo (Chelsea); D. Albertini (Milan); A. Benarrivo (Parma); G. Zola (Chelsea); C. Vieri (Juventus) or P. Casiraghi (Lazio).

form, not least the way that he allowed Ricken to lob him with his first kick of the match, induced Maldini to recall Gianluca Pagliuca, but Pagliuca, the goalkeeper who, in Giants Stadium three years ago, allowed Ray Houghton's shot to drop over his head and win the game for Ireland, conceded another ghastly goal on Sunday playing for Internazionale in Bologna. Far off his line, he was helpless as Igor Shalimov's chip sailed over his head.

"Dino Zoff," an Italian journalist once remarked of that long-lasting goalkeeper, "has suffocated a whole generation of goalkeepers." You can see what he meant.

In contrast to Maldini, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has nothing to lose. He seems happy to experiment, whereas Maldini, against World Cup rivals in this

opening game, scarcely dares do so. For Maldini, victory will be taken for granted; defeat hard to endure. A win for England, though, would give Hoddle a tremendous boost as his prosaic team approaches the grand finale in Rome in October.

The only doubt about the Italy team appears to be whether Gigi Casiraghi or Christian Vieri will partner Gianfranco Zola up front, both having missed the game in Naples. Vieri was ill while Casiraghi had only just come back from injury. Both are powerful, quick on the ground and dangerous in the air.

Italy's depth in the attacking positions is, indeed, remarkable. Besides Alessandro Del Piero, who has an injured eye, they have Parma's hugely expensive Enrico Chiesa and the prolific-scoring Pippo Inzaghi.

Inzaghi, 33, was the top scorer in Serie A with far-from-fashionable Atalanta, having the remarkable haul of 24 goals. He is a formidable opportunist, fast in mind and movement, though still unproven at international level. In contrast, Vieri and Casiraghi are proven at the highest level. Zola, the scorer at Wembley, is sure to keep England's defenders on their toes again.

Maldini knows that, when Italy play in Georgia in September, their penultimate World Cup qualifying game, he will be without the Milan pair, Billy Costacurta, whom he has turned into a sweeper, and Demetrio Albertini, the midfield player.

This tournament does give him the chance to use alternatives. Stefano Torrisi, the Bologna sweeper, has been chosen for the first time. More significant, however, may be the return, at right back, of the versatile Christian Panucci, of Real Madrid, a favourite of Maldini in his days as under-21 manager. Panucci might well have played sweeper against England at Wembley had he not been unwell.

New, too, in midfield is Gianpiero Maini, released by Roma but fresh from the success of qualifying for the Cup Winners' Cup with Vicenza. If he takes his chance, he could well line up beside Roberto Di Matteo in Georgia.



Sheringham, who wants to leave Tottenham, shares a joke with Ince, who has recommended him to Internazionale

Juninho heads Liverpool list

By DAVID MADDOCK

THEIR season may have ended in comparative failure, but Liverpool are planning a far more successful summer campaign. Peter Robinson, the chief executive, explained yesterday that there will be at least three more significant signings before the start of the season after the arrival of Oyvind Leonardsen.

Intriguingly, Juninho, the Middlesbrough and Brazil midfielder player, could yet be one of them. Juninho has openly declared his desire to sign for Atlético Madrid, but in three separate discussions between his father, Oswaldo, and Liverpool, he has indicated that his second choice is, perhaps surprisingly, the Anfield club.

Oswaldo is acting as his son's agent this summer as he negotiates an escape route from Middlesbrough. He contacted Liverpool initially to suggest that they are the one club in England for whom Juninho would like to play.

Given the interest of Manchester United, that is a surprising assertion, but Juninho has always held Liverpool in high regard. Oswaldo offered a firm undertaking that, should the Ma-

driged deal fall through, then he would turn to Liverpool.

Yesterday, it appeared a far more likely prospect than was thought a week ago. A spokesman for Jesus Gil, the Madrid chairman, complained that they would not be held to ransom over the fee for Juninho. Middlesbrough want £12 million, and Atlético have so far offered just £5 million.

It is less likely that Fabrizio Ravanelli, his Middlesbrough team-mate, will move to Anfield. In talks about Juninho, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, was also

asked if he would be interested in Ravanelli, the Italy international. Any interest was immediately doused when it was indicated that the fee would be £10 million.

Liverpool, though, have made inquiries about Tim Sherwood, the Blackburn Rovers captain, Dino Baggio, the Parma midfielder player, and Jari Litmanen, of Ajax.

Paul Ince also remains a target for Liverpool. Ince, the Internazionale midfielder player, has received offers from Liverpool, Newcastle United, Chelsea, Everton and Leeds United, and indicated yester-

day that he will weigh up the various bids when the Italian season ends in two weeks.

One man who apparently will not be leaving his club is George Graham, the Leeds United manager. He has been linked strongly with a move to Everton, but yesterday confirmed his commitment to Leeds. "I didn't come here thinking short-term and I'm going to see the job through how ever long that takes," he said.

Graham held talks yesterday with Alf Inge Haaland, the Norway midfielder player, whose contract with Nottingham Forest has expired. Leeds are hoping to challenge the Football Association under the Bosman ruling and sign Haaland without a fee, despite Forest's insistence that they go to a transfer tribunal.

Barnsley completed their first signing of the summer yesterday when they welcomed Lars Lees, a goalkeeper, from Bayer Leverkusen, of Germany.

Matt Clarke, the Sheffield Wednesday reserve goalkeeper, who was sent off in the final game of the season, against Liverpool, has had the dismissal quashed after David Elleray, the referee, reviewed video evidence.

New deal for O'Neill

MARTIN O'NEILL, the Leicester City manager, is to sign a new contract that will keep him at Filbert Street until the next millennium. O'Neill's future at Leicester had been in doubt and he had been linked to the vacancies at Celtic and Everton.

With Leicester in Europe, however, after winning the Coca-Cola Cup, and with players, directors and supporters urging him to stay, O'Neill is set to pledge his future to the club. Leicester, who finished ninth in the FA

Carling Premiership despite being favourites to go down, have called a news conference for this morning.

Manchester United will complete their pre-season preparations with a home game against Slavia Prague on Wednesday, August 6. The game is part of the deal that brought Karel Poborsky to Old Trafford from the Czech Republic. United also plan games in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Tokyo, as well as matches in Milan and at home against Internazionale.

SAILING

Merricks maintains progress

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MERRICKS, Ian Walker and crew on the Great Britain Admiral's Cup team Mumm 36, *Bradamante*, have made a confident start to the Corel Mumm 36 world championships in Punta Ala, Italy. They are lying in second position after six races.

The off-repeated but true fact about Merricks and Walker is that they are a "very steep learning curve" in keel boats, having stepped into one for the first time only last year. However, this is becoming increasingly irrelevant as they demonstrate their ability to mix it with some of the most experienced keel boat experts in the world.

After scoring a fourteenth, then a first and a fourth in variable conditions on the first day, which put them fourth overall, they followed up yesterday with a consistent three results on windward/leeward of second, seventh and fourth.

In the first race of the day, Merricks had a good start, emerging at the windward mark for the first time in third position behind George

Andreadis, of Greece, on *Atlanti VIII*, in second place and Antonio Orlando, of Italy, on *Osama*, who led all the way; but by the downwind turn, Merricks had got up to second, a position that he held almost unchallenged for the remainder of the race.

Going into the long offshore race today, the leader on 21pts is the German boat, *Thomas I. Punk*, owned and skippered by Thomas Friese but steered by Gavin Brady, of New Zealand. Merricks is on 32pts, with *Jameson*, the American Admiral's Cup boat, third on 34pts. Orlando is fourth on 35pts with Torben Grael, of Brazil, fifth with 37pts.

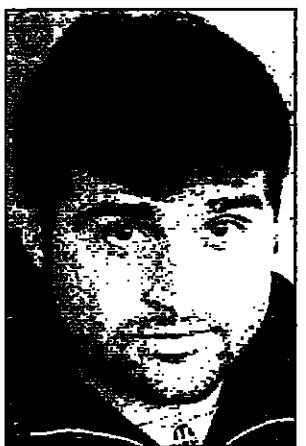
Meanwhile, in the double-handed Tour of Brittany, Marcus Hutchinson, of Great Britain, sailing with Michel Desjoyeaux, the French skipper, on *Sill Plein Fruit*, was leading after two of the planned eight races yesterday. Hutchinson and Desjoyeaux posted a win in boisterous conditions in the first race on Sunday and then a second place in leg two on Monday. Last night, they were setting

off on the 105-mile third leg, from Pénis Guirec to Douarnenez, with virtually no wind forecast.

Other skippers in the 27-strong Figaro-Beneteau fleet include Thierry Dubois, a Vendée Globe survivor, who is eighth overall, and Damian Foxall, of Ireland, on *DHL*, who is in eleventh position.



Peruzzi: distracted



Casiraghi: powerful

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The latest generation of bridge-playing computer programs is the brain-child of Matt Ginsberg, who is in charge of the project along with Fred Gitelman, a Canada international and one of the finest of bridge computer gurus.

Ginsberg is no mean player himself and, when he played with Gitelman in a pairs event, he was confronted with a problem that would have kept his program, GIB (it stands for Goren in a Box), busy for a while.

Dealer West	East-West game
♠ 10 7 4 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ A K J 3 2 ♠ 9 6 3 ♥ K Q 6 3 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ 9 7 4	♠ 8 ♥ 8 7 5 ♦ K 7 4 2 ♣ Q 10 8 5 ♠ A K Q J 5 2 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A Q J ♣ 6

Contract: Six Spades by South

Lead: King of hearts

North-South had a simple Acol auction: Ginsberg opened Two Clubs and heard his partner respond Three Clubs. He bid Three Spades and, over his partner's Four Spade bid, jumped to Six Spades.

The lead of the king of hearts set Ginsberg a tough problem in percentages. He played off one top spade, noting the fall of the eight, then the top clubs (throwing a heart), and ruffed a club with the ace of spades. When the queen of clubs did not drop, he needed two more entries to dummy to set up and cash the fifth club. Should he play for

the remaining trumps to be 1-1, or should he play for West to hold 9-0?

He correctly followed the restricted choice indications (the point being that a singleton nine or eight of spades is more likely than a doubleton nine-eight) by leading to the seven of spades and ruffing another club. Now, a spade in the ten allowed him to discard his last heart on the fifth club and he lost just one diamond trick, to register 12 tricks.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SALIAN

- a. A naval officer
- b. A South African lion
- c. Priest of Mars in ancient Rome

SILLY

- a. An abusive epithet for a woman
- b. A sulphur and metal compound
- c. An unwilling accomplice

SKEIGH

- a. Scant
- b. Spirited
- c. Secret

EVERSION

- a. A fifth adaptation
- b. An electrical occurrence
- c. An overthrow

Answers on page 50

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

McDonald wins

Grandmaster Neil McDonald has scored a great triumph in the Coudsoul international tournament, winning the event with 8/9, 2½ points clear of his nearest competitors. One of the points of the tournament was to create opportunities for players to qualify for the international master title. The international master norm was 6/9, but McDonald cut such a devastating swathe through the opposition that none of his rivals was able to reach this score.

White: Neil McDonald
Black: Tim Wall
Coudsoul international
May 1997

Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1 E4 | c5 |
| 2 Nf3 | e6 |
| 3 d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 Nc3 | Nc6 |
| 6 Bg5 | e5 |
| 7 Qc2 | Be7 |
| 8 O-O-O | Nxd4 |
| 9 Qxd4 | O-O |
| 10 Kd1 | Qa5 |
| 11 Kd1 | Rd8 |
| 12 Qa2 | Cc7 |
| 13 Bc3 | b6 |
| 14 h4 | Ed7 |
| 15 g4 | Rac8 |
| 16 Bxh6 | Bxh6 |
| 17 Ne2 | Qb6 |
| 18 c3 | Ba4 |
| 19 Rd1 | exd4 |
| 20 e5 | Be7 |
| 21 f5 | Bc5 |
| 22 Rh3 | d4 |

WINNING MOVE

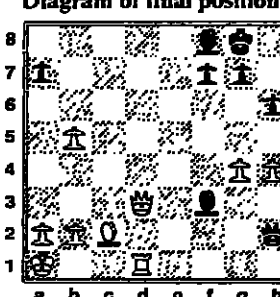
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Anand — Andersson, Monaco, 1997. At a high level, the win of a pawn usually spells defeat for the player who has lost it. In this game, Viswanathan Anand spotted a combination to net a pawn and went on to win easily. What did he play?

23 c4	Bb4
24 Qd4	Rc5
25 Be6	Qa6
26 Ne4	Rd4
27 Qxd4	Rxe5
28 Qd8	Bf8
29 f4	Be6
30 Rg1	Rc5
31 Kf1	b5
32 cxd5	Bd5
33 Bb1	Ra2
34 Rc1	Qe5
35 Rc2	Rc2
36 Bxc2	Qxc2
37 Rd1	Bf3
38 Qd3	

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Final cross-table

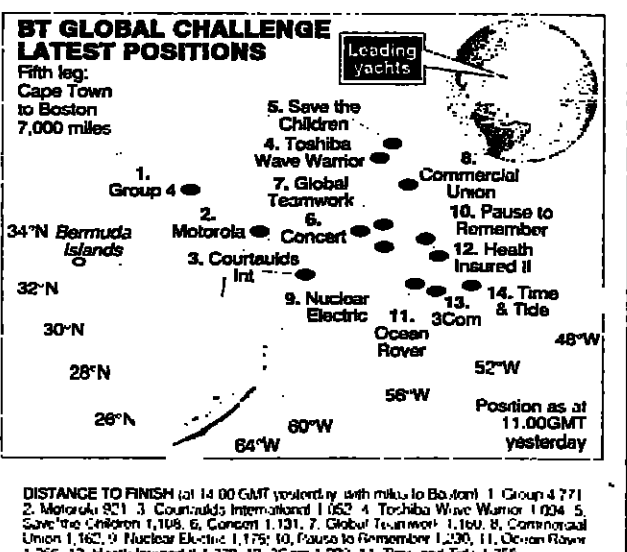
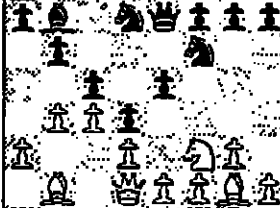
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
McDonald	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0
Wall	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0
McDonald	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0
Wall	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
McDonald	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wall	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDonald	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wall	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDonald	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

In the above table, 1 represents a win, 0 a draw and 1/2 a loss

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



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LIVE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

6/5 ITALY 9/4 DRAW ENGLAND 7/4
Nantes, Kick-off 7.30pm, Live on Sky.

CORRECT SCORE	SCORE TO BE	ENG.	H/TIME	F/TIME
11/2	1-0	6/1	ITALY	5/2
8/1	2-0	11/1	ITALY	14/1
8/1	2-1	10/1	ITALY	28/1
20/1	3-0	28/1	DRAW	5/1
18/1	3-1	25/1	DRAW	4/1
33/1	3-2	33/1	DRAW	ENGLAND 11/2
11/2	0-0	11/2	ENGLAND	ITALY 25/1
5/1	1-1	5/1	ENGLAND	DRAW 14/1
18/1	2-2	18/1	ENGLAND	ENGLAND 4/1

Other scores on request. Sets void if 2nd half not started.

WILLIAM HILL

100% A BET ACCOUNT REFUND (CASH) 24 HOURS. ALL BETS MUST BE PLACED BY 11.00PM.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
RUGBY UNION:
Jenkins set to
Lions
jacks all

FROM PAGE 48

0150 1001 0150



RACING 47

Ryan picks up plum Derby ride on Benny The Dip

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4 1997

RUGBY UNION 49

Lions look to Jenkins to bring back running game



Unsettled Sheringham finds ally in Ince



Sheringham: wants move

FROM OLIVER HOIT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN NANTES

IF THE theme of England's early summer is, indeed, to be one of recovery and revival after adversity, Teddy Sheringham followed it to the letter here yesterday. His afternoon started with him having to explain away an incident with a fire extinguisher and ended with the promise that his talents were about to be recommended to one of Europe's most ambitious clubs.

Sheringham, who has been one of the pivotal figures in leading England back from the disappointment of losing to Italy at Wembley in February to a position of relative strength in their World Cup qualifying campaign, trained with the rest of the squad in the Stade de la Beaujoire as they prepared for their opening game in the Tournoi de France, against Italy, tonight.

After Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, insisted that English confidence was so high after their morale-boosting victory in Poland on Saturday that he would persist with his intention of experimenting against England's World Cup group two rivals tonight — even though Italy are likely to field a full-strength team — all eyes turned to Sheringham.

Once he had shrugged off questions about a hotel room that he was supposed to have inflicted minor damage on a few weeks ago as "a joke and a laugh", Sheringham confirmed that he had submitted a written transfer request to Tottenham Hotspur after the breakdown of negotiations with Alan Sugar, the club chairman.

Sugar said later that he had accepted the request and that he would be "happy to see him go", a sentiment unlikely to be shared by many of the Tottenham supporters and that was distinctly at odds with the praise lavished on Sheringham by Hoddle and Paul Ince, the international midfielder player.

Ince has had such a fine season that Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, is desperate to hang on to him, and Ince hinted that a move for Sheringham, allied to Inter's approaching £50 million capture of Ronaldo, the Brazil striker, could help to persuade him to stay. "I've only just heard about Teddy's situation," Ince said, "but he is a

very clever and intelligent player and I admire him a lot. Of course I am going to mention it to Moratti. We are probably only three players away from having a championship-winning team at Inter and, if we could get Ronaldo and Sheringham, that would be two of them."

rested against Italy, was also linked yesterday with a move to Newcastle United, which would allow him to reprise his successful England partnership with Alan Shearer at club level. The sticking point may be Tottenham's valuation of Sheringham, which is thought to be close to £6 million. Sheringham calmly made it clear that he was upset over the way that Sugar had handled the haggling over his new contract, but admitted that he had been mulling over the possibility of a move for some time.

"They offered me a new contract last week and then withdrew it," Sheringham said. "Apparently, it was because I had not got back to the chairman within 48 hours to give him my decision. Considering that was during the build-up to England's match with South Africa, I did not think that was right. He did not even say there were 48 hours to consider it, but he told me four days later that that was his custom."

"I just feel it is probably the right

time for me to have a new challenge. I am disappointed that I have not been challenging for honours because top players want to play at the top level. It is too early to say now, but I am hoping there will be plenty of interest."

Hoddle, whose opportunities to experiment may be hampered by niggling injuries to Andy Cole, David Beckham, Robert Lee and Paul Gascoigne, is likely to play Beckham in the central midfield position that many people feel is his natural home, if he is fit. Philip Neville may also start the match as a right-sided wing back or full back if Hoddle tries a 4-4-2 formation.

"I am not too worried about focusing on the opponents," Hoddle said. "If Italy want to put out a full-strength team, that is up to them. To win and get off to a flier in this tournament would be smashing, but we have got to look at things that are going to help us if we get to the World Cup next year. We have got to take the chains off for this one."

Ince, who has had to suffer the taunts of his team-mates since England's defeat to Italy, was more bullish about the prospect of facing them again and trying to achieve England's first win over them since 1977. "Before the game against Poland," he said, "I felt we had

Anxious Maldini 48
Liverpool go shopping 48
O'Neill's new contract 48

become a divided nation. Half the people did not believe we were going to go to Poland and win or that we could get to the World Cup. Now we have got the whole nation behind us and everybody believes in us absolutely gutted by our result in Poland. They would have been thinking that, because they only get a draw there, there was no way we could get a win. They would have been chomping on their spaghetti and I wish I had been there to see it."

Graf eliminated on day of drama

Coetzer unveils power to put out champion

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

FRENCH Open champions fell like drops of rain here yesterday. On another dramatic, beguiling and competitive afternoon, Steffi Graf succumbed in straight sets, 6-1, 6-4, to the bounding, diminutive South African, Amanda Coetzer; and within the hour Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Russian leader of the men's title, had lost his five-set battle with the Brazilian 20-year-old, Gustavo Kuerten.

If Kuerten is the wonder of this tournament, this wildly fluctuating tennis championship, then it was Coetzer who yesterday had the whole essence of what was happening before our eyes spelt out.

She came off the court into the interview room wearing a

white T-shirt, on which she had written "Power is nothing". And then she turned around, and on the back she had scrawled "without control".

Power without control, indeed. Little Miss Coetzer, 3ft 2in, had the measure of Graf, the most powerful and dominating presence on the female court with 21 grand-slams tournaments, including the last two on this Parisian red clay, to her credit. Very few have known the pinnacle that Graf fell from yesterday, or ever will. It is premature to suggest that the end is nigh for someone still so apparently obsessed with her sport, still not quite 28.

Yet, coming back from a

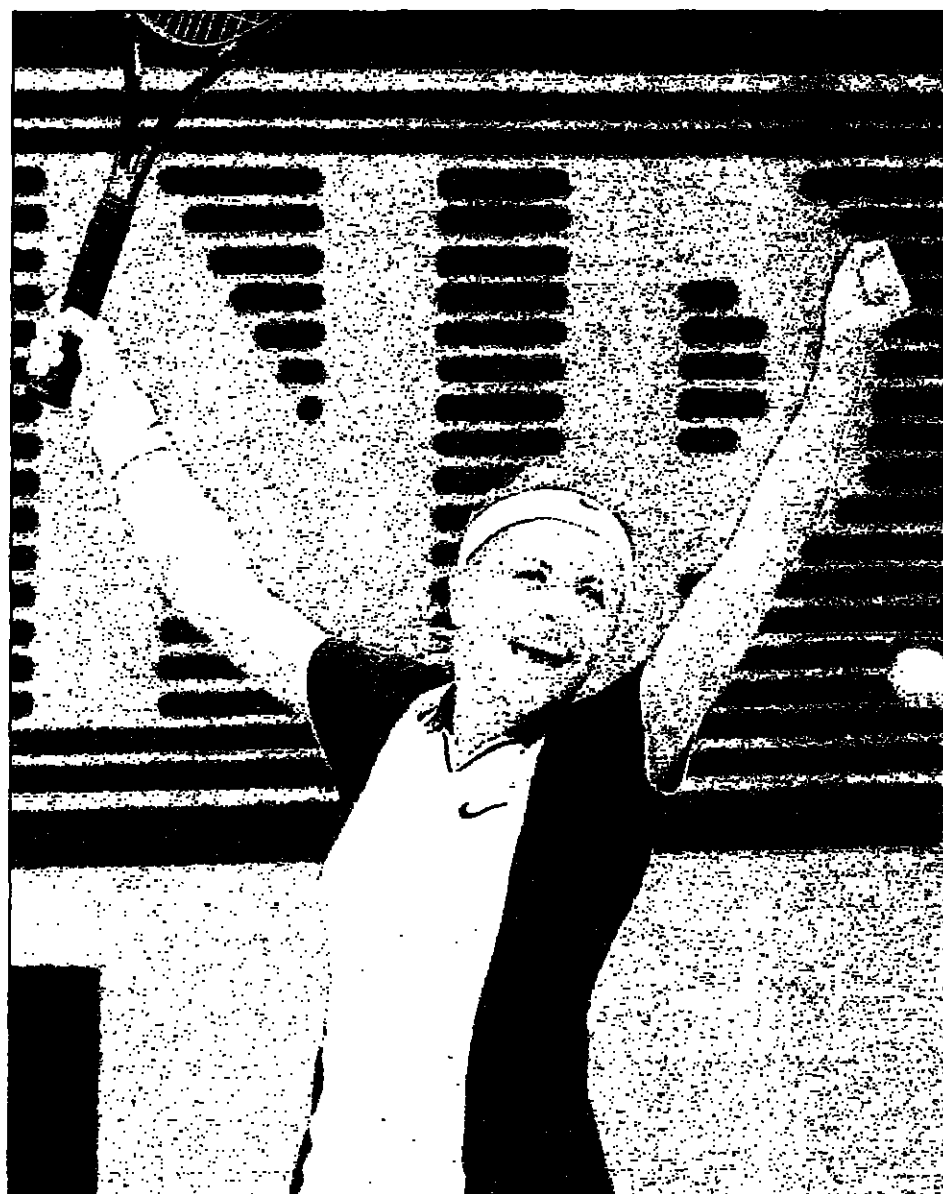
knee tendon injury, coming back to her court after a three-month absence, Graf had been overwhelmed by Coetzer, 6-0, 6-1, in Berlin last month. She knew the portent, and she spoke before the match of spiking the pace, of not allowing Coetzer into her baseline consistency.

"The main thing will be patience, with aggressiveness at the same time," Graf had forecast. Some two hours later, the German seemed quite bemused by her own inefficiency. Broken in her first service game, she was later to admit: "I made a really nervous start. I felt very uncomfortable, unsure of my shots. I didn't seem to find the reach or the patience at all."

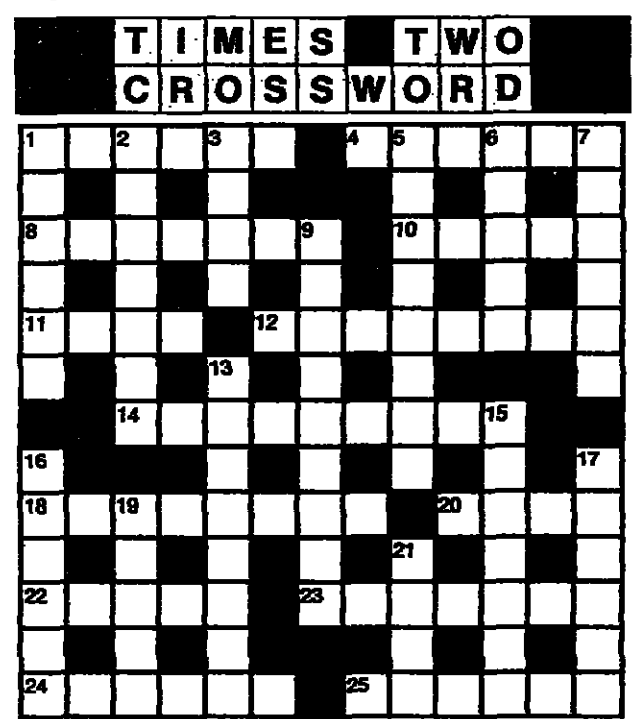
Graf is so used to winning, so used to interviews on her terms, that she really exudes, on her rare off-days, a sense of worthlessness. It is as if all her achievements were not up there on the plaques, in the record books, in the bank.

What made it even more surprising was that a rain shower offered Graf a reprieve when she trailed 3-1 in the second set. The thousands packed into the Suzanne Lenglen court had grown solemn and silent, but now they wondered whether Graf could at least make a contest of it.

Alas, even as the rain came down, this struggling champion could not convince herself that there was hope or reason. She returned to at least engage Coetzer in lengthy rallies, but so seldom did she bring her opponent to the net, where Coetzer is vulnerable, that inevitably the stray shots came from the Graf racket.



Coetzer enjoys her moment of triumph in the quarter-finals yesterday while Graf tries to come to terms with the rare experience of defeat



No 1111

ACROSS

- 1 Compel acceptance of (6)
- 4 Much loved (6)
- 8 (TV show) given experimental showing (7)
- 10 Permitted (5)
- 11 Italian currency (4)
- 12 Non-sexual (affair) (8)
- 14 Spiteful (9)
- 15 Hot Med. winds (8)
- 20 Operatic solo (4)
- 22 Number finger (5)
- 23 Drug group, editors (anag.) (7)
- 24 Wet through (6)
- 25 Borneo sultanate (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1110
ACROSS: 1 Touch-and-go 7 Twister 8 Mimic 10 Cotterie
11 Bloom 12 Sombre 15 Camera 17 Ibsen 18 Upward 21 Leash
22 En route 23 Sacrosanct

DOWN: 1 Taint 2 Utter 3 Hornet 4 Namibia 5 Gamboge
6 Stock-still 9 Commandeer 13 Mascara 14 Rancher 16 Rubens
19 Bored 20 Adult

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1106
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 3 Queen Mab 7 Mau Mau 8 Conker 9 Parson
10 Gorgon 11 Trad 13 Ferry 15 Adds 17 Trudge 18 Prunty
19 Header 20 Lieder 21 Duty-free

DOWN: 1 Bazaar 2 Amused 3 Quintine 4 Economy 5 Make
good 6 Barones 11 Thatched 12 Adjutant 13 Fig leaf
14 Rumpole 15 Avoiced 16 Duplex

Taylor receives Waugh's backing

By RICHARD HOBSON

WITHIN hours of the latest and most strident criticism of him from a previous Australia captain, Mark Taylor yesterday received the unequivocal backing of the man being groomed as his successor should he heed the advice of Ian Chappell and fall on his sword.

Any suggestion of growing division within the tour party was dispelled, publicly at least, when Steve Waugh, the vice-captain, confirmed Taylor as a certain starter in the first Cornhill Test, which starts at Edgbaston tomorrow, and proceeded to speak glowingly of the captain's ability to play under pressure.

Waugh's manner was as interesting as anything that he said. Not generally regarded as one of the happiest in dealing with the press, he mixed freely among those brandishing microphones and notebooks after Australia had completed their first practice session. At one point, he even implored journalists to come closer if they wished to hear his words.

"We have said that Mark

will play in advance so we will not get asked the question 3,000 times and can talk about something else," Waugh said. "Because his form has been down, people have been on his back, which is understandable, but the fact is that he has scored 14 centuries and clearly knows how to play Test cricket."

Earlier, Chappell had said on the Today programme on BBC Radio 4 that Taylor was the wrong appointment as captain for the tour and described the selection panel, somewhat brutally, as the worst he could remember.

Yesterday, Taylor caused

some consternation when he issued an edict that press and photographers would not be allowed inside the nets area at the ground in Birmingham. He is known, though, to be far happier within himself after the half-century that he made against Derbyshire at the weekend, an innings that realistically removed any doubt over his participation here.

In contrast, the England camp exuded nothing but sweetness and light. David Lloyd, the coach, believes that, after the 3-0 victory in the Texaco Trophy, "the country has a spring in its step". The squad has been reduced to 12.

Phil Tufnell having been released in time for him to appear for Middlesex against Leicestershire in the county championship today.

Warwickshire had 300 tickets remaining for the first day's play yesterday morning. The ground is sold out to its capacity of 14,000 on Friday and Saturday. If it seems surprising that an Ashes series may begin in front of anything less than a full house, then there is another statistic that some may feel is even odder.

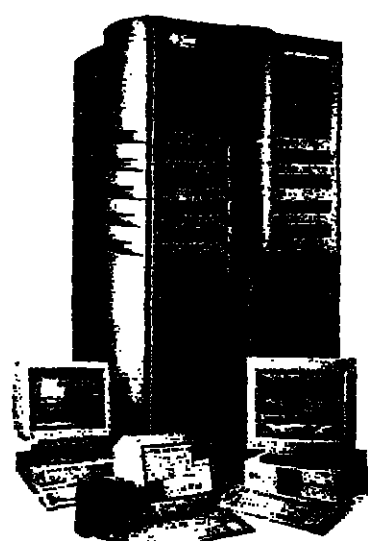
Twelve thousand tickets have been sold for Sunday, a significant show of faith given that the past two Tests at the ground have been completed on the third day and before lunch on the fourth, respectively.

The club has been told that it faces the possibility of losing its Test status unless there is a marked improvement in the pitch and Steve Rouse, the groundsman, acknowledged that he felt under "tremendous pressure".

Smith said: "I had a very fair hearing, that's not to say that I didn't find the verdict harsh."

Smith, 33, left Warwick-

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Waugh at peace, page 46
ITC latest, page 49

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